



# UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA

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Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia “Galileo Galilei”

Corso di Laurea in Fisica

Tesi di Laurea

Development of a ML-based model-independent  
analysis strategy at the LHC

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## **Abstract**

Searching for New Physics is the primary goal of the CMS experiment at the LHC. Performing such search without relying on a specific theory extending the Standard Model (SM) is of paramount importance but at the same time highly non-trivial. Recently, several proposals have been made in that sense, in particular exploiting the power of modern ML techniques. The goal of this thesis is to apply such model-independent strategies to concrete physics cases, aiming at detecting signals solely by comparing the collision data with what predicted by the SM.

## **Sommario**

La ricerca di nuova fisica è l'obiettivo primario dell'esperimento CMS a LHC. Eseguire una ricerca del genere senza fare affidamento su una teoria specifica che allarga il Modello Standard (SM) è di primaria importanza, ma allo stesso tempo altamente non banale. Recentemente, sono state avanzate diverse proposte verso questa direzione, in particolare sfruttando la potenza delle tecniche moderne di Machine Learning. L'obiettivo di questa tesi è applicare tali strategie "model-independent" a casi fisici concreti, mirando a rivelare segnali esclusivamente comparando i dati delle collisioni con quelli predetti dallo SM.

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 High-Energy Particle Physics and Standard Model

Understanding the nature of the particles that constitute matter and radiation is one of the main concerns of science. Particle Physics, also known as High Energy Physics (briefly, ‘hep’), is the branch of Physics that conducts this ambitious research and its development can be located near the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century. Since then, numerous theoretical models have been built in order to predict the outcome of experiments, which can prove their correctness.

At the present, the model that better describes the observed phenomena in hep is the Standard Model, which will be identified with the acronym SM. Since it is the best basis for comparison with experimental results, it will be denoted as ‘reference model’ in the following discussion.

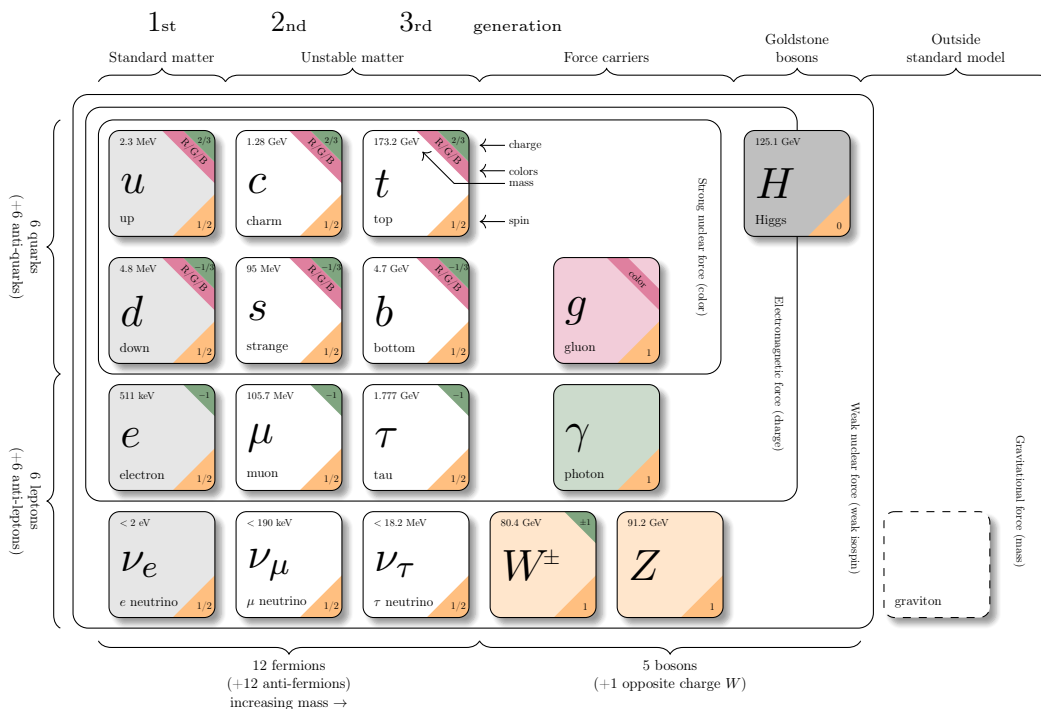


Figure 1.1: Standard Model of Physics.

However, although SM has proved to be extremely successful in predicting a wide variety of particle processes with great accuracy, there are still unexplained phenomena. Among these:

- It doesn't explain the canonical theory of gravitation, general relativity, in terms of quantum field theory<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>It is important to remark that an eventual physical confirmation of a theoretical particle known as a graviton would account for it to a degree.

- Although, as it now stands, it can explain why neutrinos have masses, the specifics of neutrino mass are still unclear.
- It doesn't explain the existence of dark matter.

Future experiments will be able to explore never observed before phenomena, or they will measure known phenomena with a even better accuracy. These facts suggest that new physics (i.e. physical laws not yet established) exists and its research is actually one of the most challenging problems in High Energy Physics.

### 1.1.1 Researches for new physics

Searching for new physics concretely means searching for discrepancies between observed data and the reference model. This task can be phrased in a more technical way. What we are able to do is taking repeated measurements of a multi-dimensional random variable  $x$ , experimentally speaking. Then, we can build a Probability Density Function (PDF) using experimental data and test the reference model distribution against the actual data. The first difficulty encountered by seeking this approach is that the true underlying data distribution will be quite similar to the reference one. It means that, if data contain new physics effects, they will be localized in a low-probability region where only a small fraction of event is present, or they will be spread in a large region of the  $x$  space.

The most widely employed approach to the problem is to search for specific new physics models. It has the advantage to be physically informative, even if the compatibility of the data with the reference model is confirmed. But there is a critical disadvantage: a statistical test which is designed to be sensitive to one specific hypothesis is typically insensitive to data departures of a different nature from the one expected. So, even if new physics is present in the data, it would not be discovered because it doesn't belong to the class of hypothetical models we are searching for. In Figure 1.2 and 1.3 there are many examples of excluded models in order to show how difficult it is to search for new physics with this approach.

### 1.1.2 Benefits of a model-independent approach

After having underlined the difficulties of a model-dependent approach, we can now introduce the strategy of a model-independent approach. But first, it is necessary to clarify the meaning of the expression 'model-independent' since it is ill-defined in statistic when it is bound to the concept of hypothesis test. In fact, testing one hypothesis requires an alternative hypothesis to compare with. What we have is basically a set of alternative hypothetical distributions depending on free parameters, also called alternative probability model in statistics.

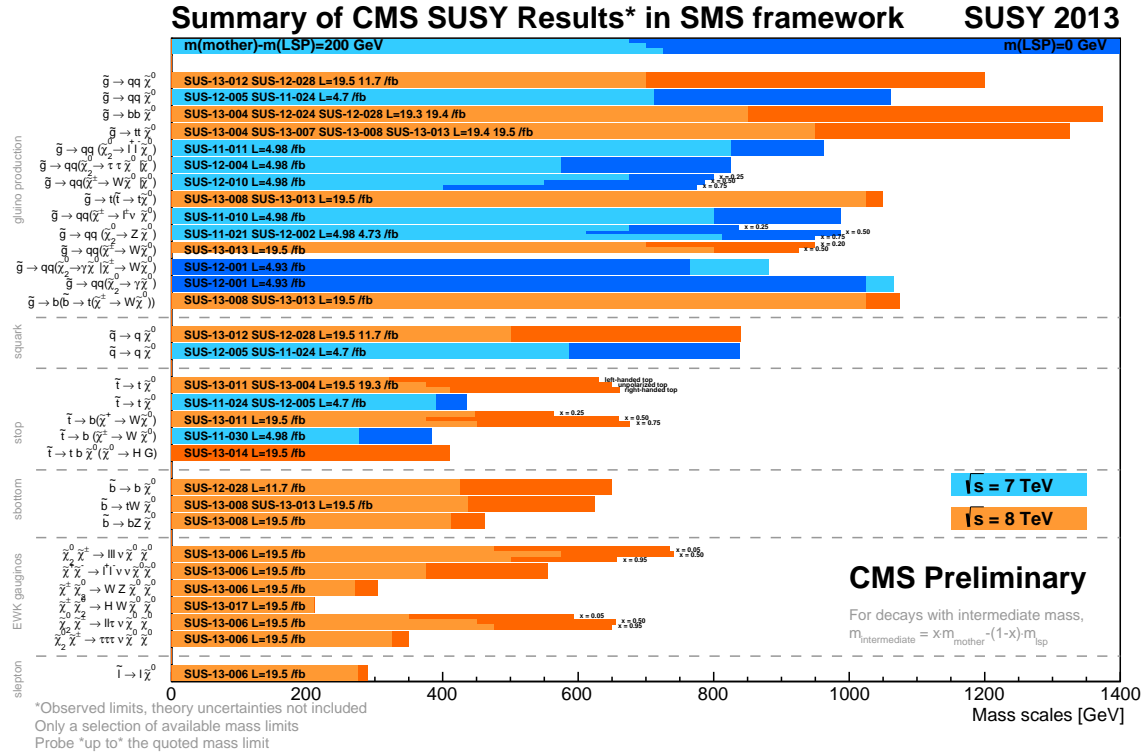
In Physics a model is a set of physical laws that make us able to predict these distributions. So we define a certain approach 'model-independent' when the alternative distributions don't follow from a physical model, but are selected with other criteria, such as flexibility. It means that the distributions can adapt to the true underlying data distribution for an appropriate choice of the free parameters.

The main reason for which we demand a model-independent approach is the advantage of sensitivity to a large variety of new physics scenarios, including those that are not predicted by any of the models constructed until now.

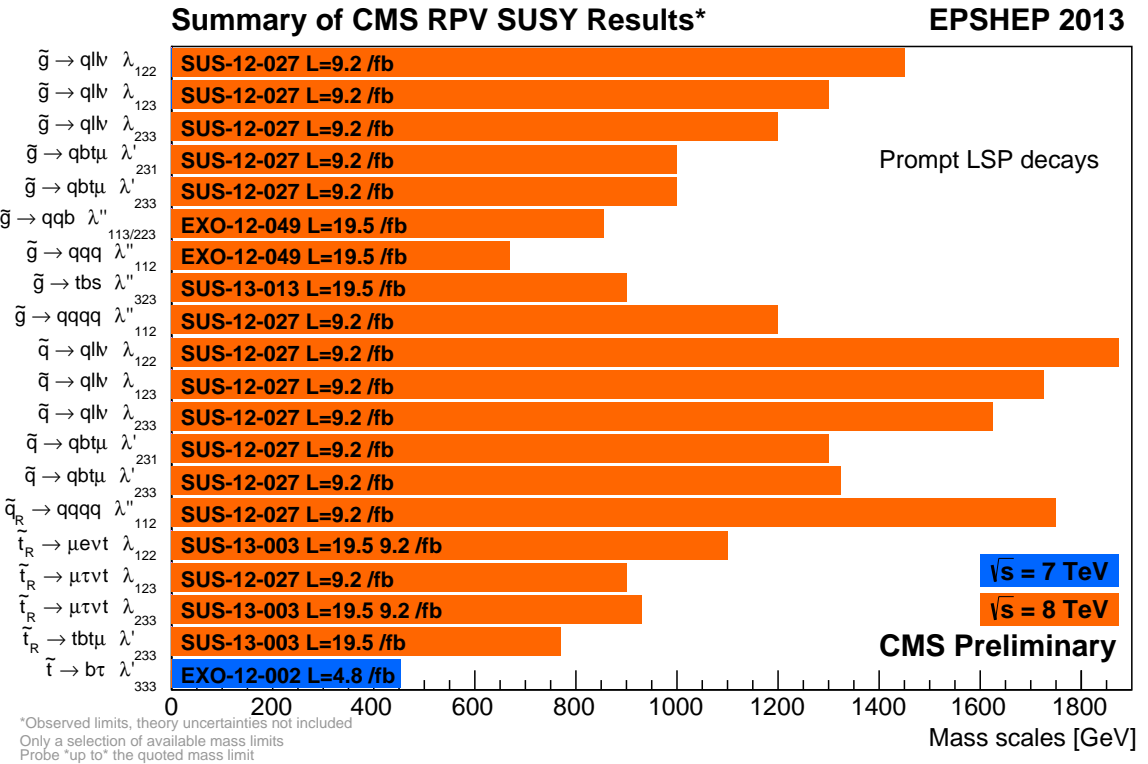
## 1.2 Machine Learning answer to the problem

The application of ML techniques to Particle Physics is not the newest addition to the field. The algorithms of this branch are currently applied to aid event selection in the analysis of data given by detectors. In fact, most of the collider events do not produce particles of interest, so making effective measurements requires a filter, in which events producing particles of interest are separated from events producing other particles not involved in the processes we want to study.

However, the current techniques used in hep fail to capture all of the available information, as proved by [1]. The recent developments in Deep Learning theory can overcome these issues. (Deep) Neural networks provide powerful classifiers and can also solve the curse of high dimensionality of



**Figure 1.2:** Best exclusion limits for the masses of the mother particles, for RPC scenarios, for  $m(\text{LSP}) = 0 \text{ GeV}$  (dark shades) and  $m(\text{mother}) - m(\text{LSP}) = 200 \text{ GeV}$  (light shades); for each topology, for all results. In this plot, the lowest mass range is  $m(\text{mother}) = 0$ , but results are available starting from a certain mass depending on the analyses and topologies. Branching ratios of one are assumed, values shown in plot are to be interpreted as upper bounds on the mass limits [4].



**Figure 1.3:** Best exclusion limits for the masses of the mother particles, for RPV scenarios, for each topology, for all results. In this plot, the lowest mass range is  $m(\text{mother}) = 0 \text{ GeV}$ , but results are available starting from a certain mass depending on the analyses and topologies. Branching ratios of one are assumed, values shown in plot are to be interpreted as upper bounds on the mass limits [4].

data. Moreover, circuit complexity theory has proved that deep neural networks have the potential to compute in an unbiased way arbitrary complex functions in a very efficient way. Employing them to parametrize alternative distributions for model-independent new physics searches is thus a highly motivated attempt.

Several approaches with neural networks to the problem of new physics research have been developed so far, starting from the one given by [1]. The approach employed in this thesis work is introduced by [2]. Technically speaking, we can exploit neural networks to find an anomalous behavior, relative to the reference model, of the entire data sample, with which we train the network. The process studied is the decay of the  $Z$  boson into a pair of muon-antimuon, assuming for new physics events different kind of signals in order to test the efficiency of the approach.

The content of this thesis work is ordered as follows:

- In Chapter 2 a general recap on deep learning theory and on neural networks is given. Common practices in the training procedure are explained too.
- In Chapter 3 LHC collider is described along with CMS experiment. In particular, in Chapter 4 a summary on the process analyzed can be found.
- In Chapter 5 the algorithm employed for anomaly detection is explained and in Chapter 6 a necessary tuning procedure is illustrated. Finally, the results are presented in Chapter 7.
- In the final Chapter 8 possible developments of the method and of the algorithm are provided.



# Chapter 2

## Introduction to Neural Networks

### 2.1 Artificial Neural Networks

Nature has inspired many inventions, so it seems logical to look at the architecture of brain for inspiration on how to build an ‘intelligent machine’. This is the key idea which inspired Artificial Neural Networks (a.k.a. ANNs). In fact, an ANN is a computing system inspired by the biological neural networks which constitute the animal brain. Therefore, an ANN is based on a set of connected units or nodes called artificial neurons for the comparison with biological neurons. Each connection, like the synapses in a biological brain, can transmit a signal from one artificial neuron to another. An artificial neuron that receives a signal can process it and then signal additional artificial neurons connected to it.

The simplest model which can be given for an artificial neuron is the so-called ‘perceptron’, developed in the 1950s and 1960s by the scientist Frank Rosenblatt, inspired by earlier work by Warren McCulloch and Walter Pitts [16]. A perceptron takes several binary inputs,  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , and produces a single binary output. Rosenblatt proposed a simple rule to compute the output. He introduced the weights,  $w_1, \dots, w_n$ , real numbers expressing the importance of the respective inputs to the output. The output of the neuron, 0 or 1, is determined by whether the weighted sum is less than or greater than a threshold value.

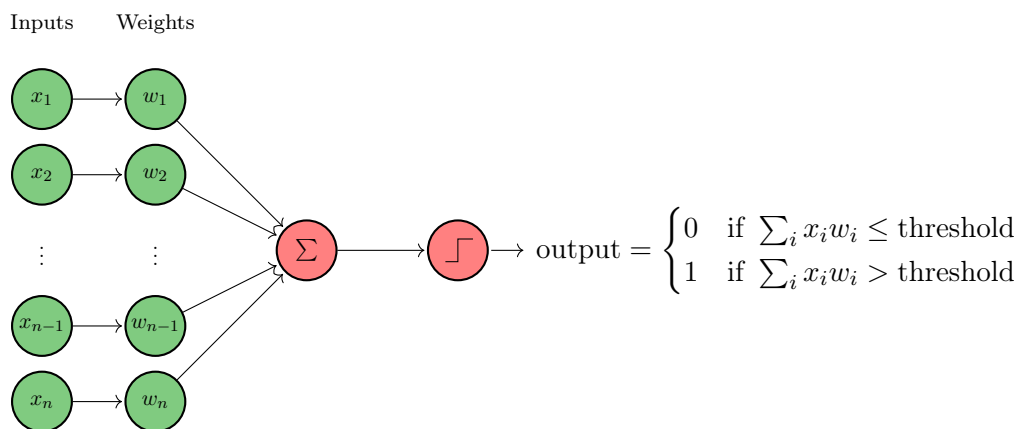
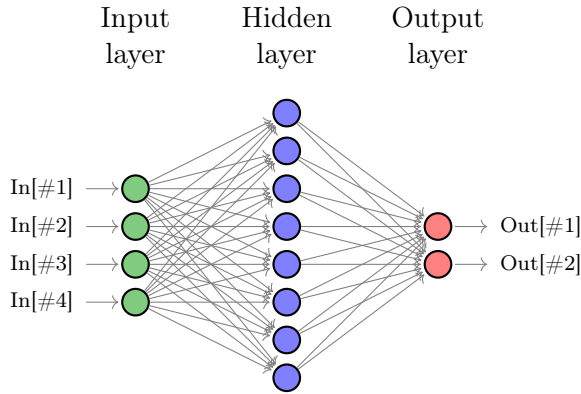


Figure 2.1: Mathematical model of a perceptron.

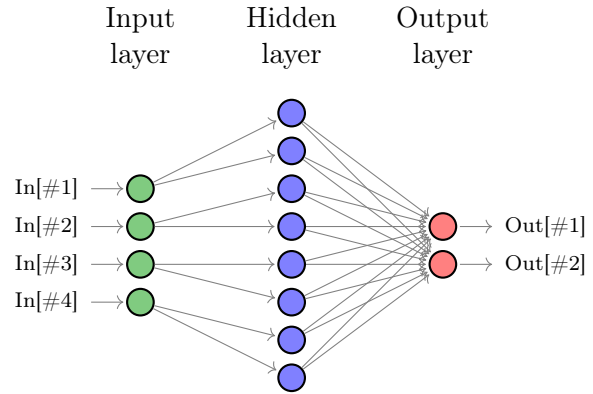
However, this kind of neuron is not suitable to accomplish the complex tasks that Deep Learning tries to solve nowadays. It is only the starting point of the rapid evolution that this field has been experiencing. In the following Section, more refined types of artificial neurons, which are exploited at the present, are discussed. What matters now is how these units can be combined to assemble a Neural Network.

In order to make the notation easier to understand, from now on out we will denote ANN with Neural Network, or more simply NN. In common NN implementations, neurons are arranged in consecutive layers, with the first and last ones called respectively input and output layers. Each layer

can be fully connected with the subsequent layer, i.e. every single neuron of a layer is connected with all the neurons in the next layer. It is the case of a fully connected NN. In other implementations, neurons can also be only partially connected in the meaning previously defined. For example, taking into account a network with 4 input neurons, 2 output neurons and a hidden layer with 8 neurons, the difference between the two types is highlighted by Figure 2.2 and 2.3.



**Figure 2.2:** Fully connected ANN.



**Figure 2.3:** Partially connected ANN.

We will consider fully connected NNs to explain in a more technical manner their working principles. In particular, we will consider a network composed of a number of layers that will be denoted with  $L$ . A NN can be described mathematically by the composition of several functions, called nested units, associated to a certain layer, for example:

$$f_{\text{NN}}(\vec{x}) = f \circ g \circ h \circ \dots \circ \vec{x} = f(g(h(\dots(\vec{x})))) \quad (2.1)$$

with  $\vec{x}$  the input of the NN and  $f_{\text{NN}}$  its output. The units in this representation can be of two kinds:

- Linear transformations:

$$h(\vec{x}) = \mathbf{w}^l \vec{x} + \vec{b}^l \quad (2.2)$$

where:

- ▷  $\mathbf{w}^l$  is a matrix of free parameters, called weights, whose elements  $[\mathbf{w}]_{i,j}^l$  are the connection values between the  $j^{\text{th}}$  neuron in the  $(l-1)^{\text{th}}$  layer and the  $i^{\text{th}}$  neuron in the  $l^{\text{th}}$  layer.
- ▷  $\vec{b}^l$  is a vector of free parameters, called biases, of the neurons in the  $l^{\text{th}}$  layer.

- Non-linear transformations, which don't depend on free parameters:

$$g(\vec{x}) = [g(x_1), \dots, g(x_N)] \quad (2.3)$$

It is possible to deduce through this formalism that a NN is a powerful way to parametrize a set of functions, whose elements are spanned by weights and biases. Given the number of layers  $L$  of the NN, this set will be denoted as  $\mathcal{F}_L$ :

$$\mathcal{F}_L = \{f_{\text{NN}}(x; \mathbf{w}, \vec{b}), \forall \mathbf{w}, \vec{b}\} \quad (2.4)$$

The question of interest now is how to find the parameters  $\mathbf{w}$  and  $\vec{b}$  that best suit to our purpose. It is possible to achieve this accomplishment through a process called ‘training’, which is one of the key ideas behind the philosophy of Neural Networks and Deep Learning. Hence, we need to implement an algorithm capable of updating the free parameters of the net to make them suitable to describe a dataset  $\mathcal{D}$  given to the input layer. Moreover, a good choice of the architecture of the NN, of the

algorithm and of the weights and biases could generalize the results of the procedure to a bigger dataset  $\hat{\mathcal{D}}$ .

In the following Sections a step by step procedure of the training process will be carefully explained. Moreover, several techniques will be listed, considering that there isn't a fixed scheme in the completion of the algorithm, but a certain combination of them can fit better to a certain problem than another one.

## 2.2 Choice of NN architecture and activation functions

The flexibility of NNs is also one of their main drawbacks. In fact, there are many hyperparameters to tweak. But what do we mean with the word 'hyperparameter'? It was previously described that a NN can parametrize a wide set of functions with the right choice of weights and biases, which are the free parameters of the net. However, there are many other parameters we have to consider and tune if we want to answer to our demands. They are going to be presented step by step in the implementation of the learning procedure.

The first thing we have to take into account in the development of a NN is its architecture, i.e. the number of layers and the number of neurons for each layer. The architecture of a NN is the first of the hyperparameters of the net. After this step, the activation functions for every layer are to be selected among a wide variety of solutions.

### 2.2.1 Number of hidden layers

For many problems, it is possible to begin with a single hidden layer and get reasonable results. As a matter of facts, it can be proved that a NN just like the previous one can model even the most complex functions provided it has enough neurons [12]. This was the reason for which many researchers thought for a long time that there was no need to investigate any deeper NNs. However, deep networks (i.e. with more than one hidden layer) are much more powerful than shallow ones. They have a much higher parameter efficiency because they are capable of modelling complex functions using exponentially fewer neurons than shallow nets [15]. Through this expedient the training process could be sped up for the fewer number of free parameters.

Another important reason to prefer deep networks for more complex problems has a heuristic justification. In fact, this kind of NNs is more adaptable to the hierarchical structure of real-world data. Lower hidden layers model low-level features, intermediate hidden layers combine these low-level features to model intermediate-level features, and the highest hidden layers and the output layer combines these intermediate features to model high-level features. Moreover, not only does this hierarchical architecture help deep NNs converge faster to a good solution, it also improves their ability to generalize to new datasets, which is one of the primary aims.

In summary, for many problems it is possible to start with just one or two hidden layers and it will work just fine. For more complex problems, the strategy is to gradually raise the number of hidden layers until the model starts overfitting the training dataset.

### 2.2.2 Number of neurons per hidden layer

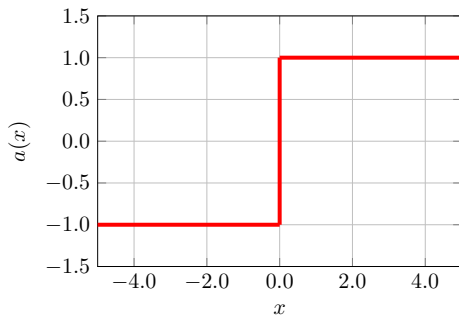
Obviously the number of neurons in the input and output layers is determined by the type of input and output required by the problem. For the hidden layers, a common practice is to size them to form a funnel, with fewer and fewer neurons at each layer. This possible architecture is motivated by the fact that many low-level features can combine into far fewer high-level features. However, this practice is not as common now and it is a valid solution to use the same size for all hidden layers. The advantage of the last practice is that there is only one hyperparameter to tune for the number of neurons per layer, instead of one hyperparameter per layer. Just like for the number of layers, we can try to increase the number of neurons gradually until the network starts overfitting the data.

In general, it is more productive to increase the number of layers than the number of neurons per layer. Finding the perfect amount of neurons is quite difficult. A simpler approach is to pick a model with more layers and neurons than we actually need and then stop the training process earlier in order

to prevent it from overfitting. It is worth to employ also some regularization techniques that will be presented further.

### 2.2.3 Activation functions

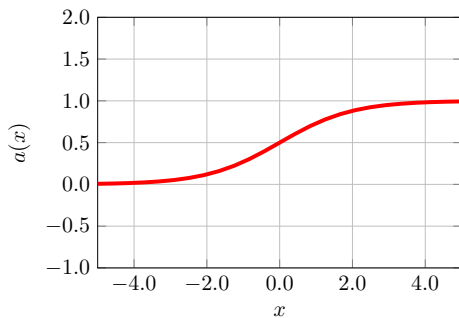
For each training instance, the algorithm employed feeds it to the network and computes the output of every neuron in each consecutive layer. This output is given by a function called ‘activation’. The selection of the activation functions for every layer is not only quite important if we want to get excellent results, but it is also crucial to speed up the computation, in particular if the expected training time is relatively long. It is possible to assemble a network with a different activation per layer depending on what we want to do. Several functions that suit to the purpose are presented below along with their characteristics.



#### Step function

$$a(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \geq 0 \\ -1 & x < 0 \end{cases} \quad (2.5)$$

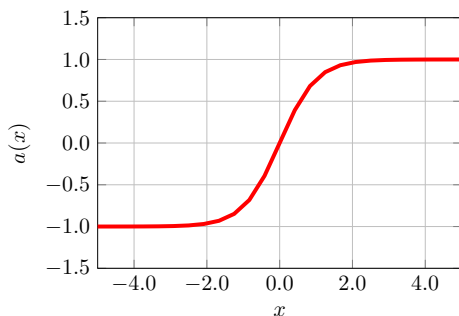
A neuron with this activation is called linear threshold unit (LTU). A single LTU can be used for simple linear binary classification problems. In general a network of LTU could not be sufficient to get reasonable results.



#### Sigmoid function

$$a(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}} \quad (2.6)$$

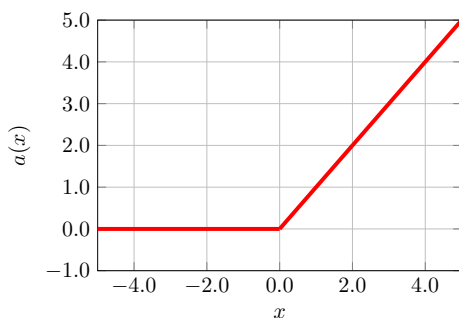
The sigmoid function has a well-defined nonzero derivative everywhere, allowing the algorithms presented in next Sections to work properly and make progresses at every step. It is probably one of the most employed for its properties.



#### Hyperbolic tangent function

$$a(x) = \tanh(x) \quad (2.7)$$

Just like the sigmoid function, it is S-shaped, continuous and differentiable, but the difference is that the output value ranges from -1 to 1 (instead of 0 to 1), which tends to make the output of each layer more or less normalized at the beginning of training. This often helps to speed up convergence.



#### ReLU function

$$a(x) = \max(0, x) \quad (2.8)$$

It is continuous but not differentiable at  $x = 0$ . However, in practice it works very well and has the advantage of being very fast to compute. It does not have a maximum output value.

## 2.3 Loss functions

Another key concept of the training algorithm is evaluating if the network is working right. For this purpose, we have to quantify how much network predictions are wrong and we can do it by choosing a

‘loss function’, or also called ‘cost function’ or ‘objective function’. There is a wide variety also for this kind of functions, but they are more related to the problem to solve than the activations. Choosing a wrong loss means getting worse results for our model. Sometimes a loss function is built from scratch to solve a single problem, so it is built ad hoc for a specific purpose.

In general, most Deep Learning algorithms involve optimization in some sort. Optimization refers to the task of either minimizing or maximizing a function  $f(x)$  by altering  $x$ . A more common practice is to phrase the problem in terms of minimizing  $f(x)$ . Maximization is equivalent to minimization processes if we consider the function  $-f(x)$ .

A selection of possible techniques that can be used for optimization is presented in Section 2.5. In the space below some of the most common loss functions are given along with the terms of use.

- **Mean Squared Error (MSE or L2 Loss):**

As the name suggests, Mean Square Error is measured as the average of squared difference between predictions  $y_i$  and actual observations  $\hat{y}_i$ .

$$L_{\text{MSE}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 \quad (2.9)$$

It is only concerned with the average magnitude of error irrespective of its direction. However, due to squaring, predictions which are far away from actual values are penalized heavily in comparison to less deviated predictions. Plus MSE has nice mathematical properties which makes it easier to calculate gradients.

- **Mean Absolute Error (MAE or L1 Loss):**

Mean absolute error is measured as the average of sum of absolute differences between predictions  $y_i$  and actual observations  $\hat{y}_i$ .

$$L_{\text{MAE}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |y_i - \hat{y}_i| \quad (2.10)$$

Like MSE, this as well measures the magnitude of error without considering its direction. Unlike MSE, MAE needs more complicated tools such as linear programming to compute the gradients. Plus MAE is more robust to outliers since it does not make use of square.

- **Cross Entropy Loss (Negative Log-Likelihood):**

This is the most common setting for classification problems. Cross-entropy loss increases as the predicted probability for a class out of  $M$  possibilities diverges from the actual label.

$$H(y_o, p_o) = - \sum_{i=1}^M y_{o,i} \log p_{o,i} \quad (2.11)$$

Terminology:

$M$  = Number of classes

$y$  = Binary indicator (0 or 1) if class label  $i$  is the correct classification for observation  $o$

$p$  = Predicted probability observation  $o$  is of class  $i$

So, when the label  $y_{o,i}$  is equal to 1, the other terms of the sum disappear. An important aspect of this is that Cross Entropy Loss penalizes heavily the predictions that are confident but wrong.

- **Kullback-Leibler Divergence (KL):**

In mathematical statistics, the Kullback–Leibler Divergence (also called ‘relative entropy’) is a measure of how a probability distribution is different from a second reference probability distribution. Translated in terms of our optimization problem:

$$D_{\text{KL}}(p||q) = - \left( \sum_{i=1}^M p_{o,i} \log q_{o,i} - \sum_{i=1}^M p_{o,i} \log p_{o,i} \right) \quad (2.12)$$

## 2.4 Backpropagation algorithm

When we use a feedforward neural network to accept an input  $x$  and produce an output  $\hat{y}$ , information flows forward through the network. The input  $x$  provides the initial information that then propagates up to the hidden units at each layer and finally produces  $\hat{y}$ . This is called ‘forward propagation’.

During training, forward propagation can continue onward until it produces a scalar loss  $L(\mathbf{w}, \vec{b})$ . The backpropagation algorithm, often simply called ‘backprop’, allows the information from the loss to then flow backward through the network in order to compute the gradient of the loss respect to the free parameters  $\mathbf{w}$  and  $\vec{b}$ . Numerically evaluating such an expression can be computationally expensive. The backpropagation algorithm does so using a simple and inexpensive procedure.

The fundamental equations of the algorithm are presented below with  $\sigma$  indicating the activation function and  $a$  its output<sup>2</sup>. The proof of these equations is based on the chain rule applied to derivatives calculation and can be found in [16].

$$\delta^L = \nabla_a L \odot \sigma'(z^L) \quad (2.13)$$

$$\delta^l = [(\mathbf{w}^{l+1})^T \delta^{l+1}] \odot \sigma'(z^l) \quad (2.14)$$

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial b_i^l} = \delta_i^l \quad (2.15)$$

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial \mathbf{w}_{ik}^l} = a_k^{l-1} \delta_i^l \quad (2.16)$$

where:

$$a^l = \sigma(\mathbf{w}^l a^{l-1} + \vec{b}^l)$$

$$a^0 = x$$

The backpropagation algorithm is reported in form of pseudo-code in Algorithm 2. It has to be specified that this is adapted for a fully connected network. In the case of a not-fully connected network the code becomes a bit more complex, but the concept behind is the same.

---

**Algorithm 1** Forward propagation through a typical deep neural network and the computation of the cost function [11]. The loss  $L(\hat{y}, y)$  depends on the output  $\hat{y}$  and on the target  $y$ . The symbol  $\theta$  will be used to indicate both weights and biases.  $\sigma$  indicates the activation function.

---

**Require:** Network depth,  $L$

**Require:**  $\mathbf{w}^{(i)}$ ,  $i \in \{1, \dots, L\}$ , the weight matrices of the model

**Require:**  $b^{(i)}$ ,  $i \in \{1, \dots, L\}$ , the bias parameters of the model

**Require:**  $x$ , the input to the process

**Require:**  $y$ , the target output

```

1: procedure FORWARD PROPAGATION( $x$ )
2:    $a^{(0)} = x$ 
3:   for  $k = 1, \dots, L$  do
4:      $z^{(k)} = b^{(k)} + \mathbf{w}^{(k)} a^{(k-1)}$ 
5:      $a^{(k)} = \sigma(z^{(k)})$ 
6:   end for
7:    $\hat{y} = a^{(L)}$ 
8:   return  $\hat{y}$ ,  $L(\hat{y}, y)$ 
9: end procedure

```

---

<sup>2</sup>In the backprop equations, the symbol  $\odot$  is the Hadamard product. Given two matrices  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  of the same dimension  $m \times n$ ,  $\mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{B}$  is a matrix of the same shape with elements given by:

$$[\mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{B}]_{ij} = [\mathbf{A}]_{ij} [\mathbf{B}]_{ij}$$

---

**Algorithm 2** Backward computation for the deep neural network of Algorithm 1, which uses, in addition to the input  $x$ , a target  $y$  [11]. This computation yields the gradients on the activations  $a^{(k)}$  for each layer  $k$ , starting from the output layer and going backwards to the first hidden layer. From these gradients, which can be interpreted as an indication of how each layer’s output should change to reduce error, one can obtain the gradient on the parameters of each layer. Just like in Algorithm 1, the activation function is indicated by  $\sigma$ .

---

```

1: procedure BACKWARD COMPUTATION( $x$ )                                ▷ After the forward computation
2:    $g \leftarrow \nabla_{\hat{y}} L = \nabla_{\hat{y}} L(\hat{y}, y)$                         ▷ Compute the gradient on the output layer
3:   for  $k = L, L - 1, \dots, 1$  do
4:      $g \leftarrow \nabla_{z^{(k)}} L = g \odot \sigma'(z^{(k)})$ 
5:      $\nabla_{b^{(k)}} L = g$ 
6:      $\nabla_{\mathbf{w}^{(k)}} L = g a^{(k-1)T}$ 
7:      $g \leftarrow \nabla_{a^{(k-1)}} L = \mathbf{w}^{(k)T} g$ 
8:   end for
9:   return  $\nabla_{b^{(k)}} L, \nabla_{\mathbf{w}^{(k)}} L, k \in \{1, \dots, L\}$ 
10: end procedure

```

---

## 2.5 Updating free parameters: Optimizers

Now that we have a solid method to compute the derivatives respect to free parameters of the loss function  $L$ , we can update weights and biases according to the derivatives. In fact, those quantities can be seen as a measure of how much the parameters are to be changed in order to get results that resemble the output. The basic idea is to change  $\mathbf{w}$  and  $\vec{b}$  of a quantity equals to the corresponding derivative multiplied by  $-\eta$ , where  $\eta$  is another hyperparameter called ‘learning rate’. It is in general a small number that represents the speed of the learning process. It is fixed at the beginning of the procedure for some algorithms, for others it is variable during the training process, starting from a predefined value.

We focus now on the algorithms that execute the updating phase of the parameters. They are called optimizers, just like the title of the Section suggests, and also for them there is a wide variety of choices. Some of them are still under study because their generalization power has not been proven completely. We’ll start to explain one of the simplest, the Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD), and then we will introduce the so called fast optimizers. Training a very large deep neural network can be painfully slow, but this kind of optimizers, along with some other techniques, give a huge boost to the computation.

### 2.5.1 An example of algorithm with fixed learning rate

---

**Algorithm 3** Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD) update at training iteration  $k$  [11].

---

**Require:** Learning rate  $\eta_k = \eta$

**Require:** Initial parameters  $\theta$

**Require:** Minibatch dimension  $m$

```

1: procedure SGD( $\{x^{(i)}\}_{i=1, \dots, n}$ )                                ▷ Take as input a dataset of  $n$  elements
2:   while stopping criterion not met do
3:     Sample a minibatch  $\{x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(m)}\}$  from the training set with corresponding targets  $y^{(i)}$ .
4:      $\hat{g} \leftarrow +\frac{1}{m} \nabla_{\theta} \sum_i L(f(x^{(i)}; \theta), y^{(i)})$         ▷ Compute gradient estimate
5:      $\theta \leftarrow \theta - \eta \hat{g}$ 
6:   end while
7:   return  $\theta$ 
8: end procedure

```

---

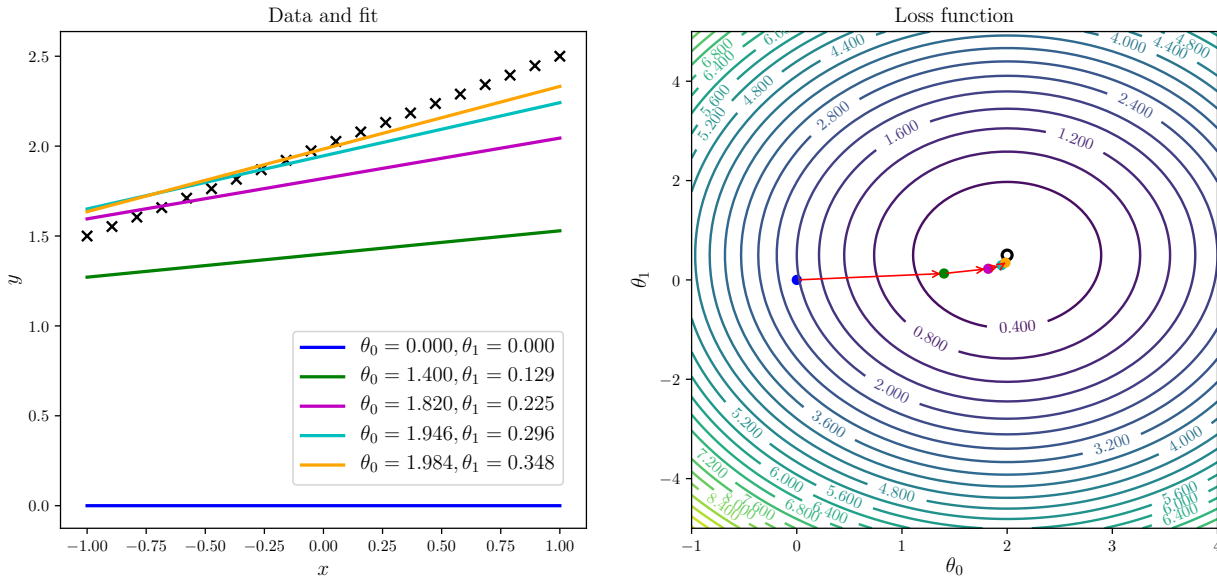


Figure 2.4: Example of application of the Gradient Descent optimization with a linear fit:  $y = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x$ .

## 2.5.2 An example of algorithm with adaptive learning rates

---

**Algorithm 4** ADAM algorithm [11].

---

**Require:** Step size  $\varepsilon$  (suggested default: 0.001)

**Require:** Exponential decay rates for moment estimates,  $\rho_1, \rho_2 \in [0, 1)$  (suggested defaults: 0.9 and 0.999 respectively)

**Require:** Small constant  $\delta$ , usually  $10^{-8}$ , used to stabilize division by small numbers

**Require:** Initial parameters  $\theta$

**Require:** Minibatch dimension  $m$

```

1: procedure ADAM( $\{x^{(i)}\}_{i=1, \dots, n}$ ) ▷ Take as input a dataset of  $n$  elements
2:   Initialize 1st and 2nd moment variables,  $s = 0, r = 0$ 
3:   Initialize time step  $t = 0$ 
4:   while stopping criterion not met do
5:     Sample a minibatch  $\{x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(m)}\}$  from the training set with corresponding targets  $y^{(i)}$ .
6:      $g \leftarrow +\frac{1}{m} \nabla_{\theta} \sum_i L(f(x^{(i)}; \theta), y^{(i)})$  ▷ Compute gradient estimate
7:      $t \leftarrow t + 1$ 
8:      $s \leftarrow \rho_1 s + (1 - \rho_1) g$  ▷ Update biased 1st moment estimate
9:      $r \leftarrow \rho_2 r + (1 - \rho_2) g \odot g$  ▷ Update biased 2nd moment estimate
10:     $\hat{s} \leftarrow \frac{s}{1 - \rho_1^t}$  ▷ Correct bias in 1st moment
11:     $\hat{r} \leftarrow \frac{r}{1 - \rho_2^t}$  ▷ Correct bias in 2nd moment
12:     $\Delta \theta = -\varepsilon \frac{\hat{s}}{\sqrt{\hat{r} + \delta}}$  ▷ Compute parameter update
13:     $\theta \leftarrow \theta + \Delta \theta$ 
14:  end while
15:  return  $\theta$ 
16: end procedure

```

---

## 2.6 Other techniques

It is possible to improve the performances of a NN through some other techniques. In particular, those techniques become necessary when the model that the net has to learn is quite complex and so the architecture of the net too.



### 2.6.1 Regularizers

Regularization is one of the central concerns of the field of Machine Learning, rivaled in its importance only by optimization. Regularization is any modification we make to a learning algorithm that is intended to reduce its generalization error but not its training error<sup>3</sup>. In practice, the most common way to regularize a model that learns a function  $f(x; \theta)$  is adding a penalty called ‘regularizer’ to the cost function. An example employed when weight decay is applied to the parameters is the following one:

$$\Omega(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} \quad (2.17)$$

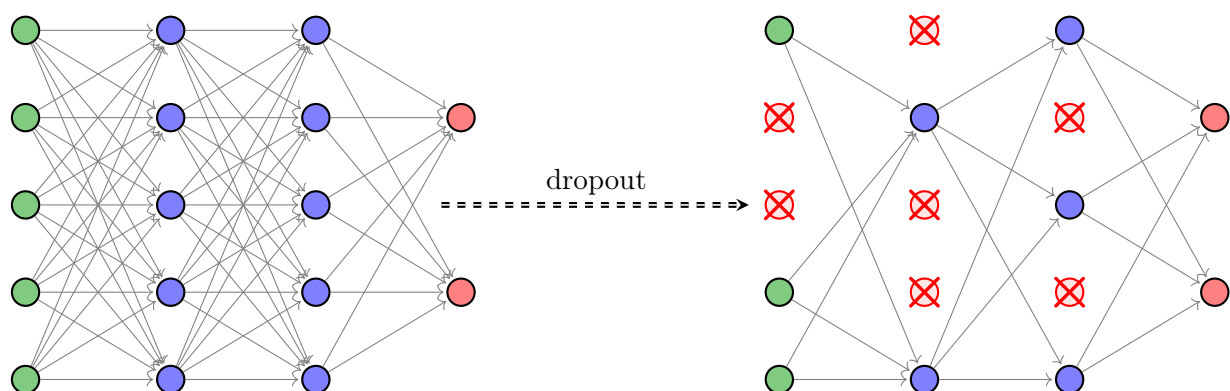
So the new regularized loss function becomes:

$$J(\mathbf{w}, \vec{b}) = L(\mathbf{w}, \vec{b}) + \Omega(\mathbf{w}) \quad (2.18)$$

### 2.6.2 Dropout

The most popular regularization technique for deep neural networks is arguably dropout. It was proposed by [13] in 2012 and further detailed in [14]. It has proven to be successful.

It is a very simple algorithm: at every training step, every neuron (including the input neurons but excluding the output neurons) has a probability  $p$  of being temporarily ‘dropped out’, meaning it will be entirely ignored during this training step, but it may be active during the next step. The hyperparameter  $p$  is called ‘dropout rate’ and it is typically set to 0.5. After training, neurons don’t get dropped anymore.



**Figure 2.5:** Example of dropout in NNs.

A possible explanation of the effectiveness of dropout could be given. Neurons trained with dropout can’t co-adapt with their neighbouring neurons. They have to be useful as possible on their own. They can’t rely excessively on just a few input neurons and so they must pay attention to each of their input neurons. They end up being less sensitive to slight changes in the inputs. In the end, we get a more robust network that generalizes better.

### 2.6.3 Parameter initialization strategies

If we want to get better results from training procedure and to decrease training time, it is crucial to adopt a good initialization strategy of the free parameters. If we start with a set of parameters quite near to the set that minimizes the loss function, the training algorithm will rapidly find the path towards the local/global minimum of the loss function.

Several initialization strategies have been developed in the research field of Deep Learning. In the space below some of them are presented:

<sup>3</sup>These two types of error are defined as:

**Generalization error:** it is a measure of how accurately an algorithm is able to predict outcome values for previously unseen data.

**Training error:** it is the error that we get when we run the trained model back on the training data.

- **Random initialization.**

Every parameter is initialized randomly in a certain interval.

- **Xavier and He initialization.**

The connection weights must be initialized randomly as described in Table 2.1, where  $n = n_{\text{inputs}}$  and  $m = n_{\text{outputs}}$  are respectively the number of input and output connections for the layer whose weights are being initialized (also called ‘fan-in’ and ‘fan-out’). The distribution used for the initialization has to be chosen between a normal distribution with mean 0 and standard deviation  $\sigma$  and a uniform distribution between  $-r$  and  $r$ . He initialization is the name given to this kind of initialization with ReLU activations.

Activation function	Uniform distribution $[-r, r]$	Normal distribution $(0, \sigma)$
Logistic	$r = \sqrt{\frac{6}{n+m}}$	$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{2}{n+m}}$
Hyperbolic tangent	$r = 4\sqrt{\frac{6}{n+m}}$	$\sigma = 4\sqrt{\frac{2}{n+m}}$
ReLU	$r = \sqrt{2}\sqrt{\frac{6}{n+m}}$	$\sigma = \sqrt{2}\sqrt{\frac{2}{n+m}}$

**Table 2.1:** Xavier and He initializations.

## Chapter 3

# CERN research for exotic particles through LHC collider

Searching for exotic particles never observed before implies a need for an enormous amount of energy in the processes involved in their creation. In fact, if we want to study something never observed before at the scales of energy normally reached, it is highly unlikely we will find something new and interesting. This is the reason for which the Large Hadron Collider, briefly LHC, was designed and built.

LHC is actually the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator. Its project was conceived in 1976 when the European particle physics community began to discuss building a Large Electron Positron (LEP) collider at CERN, and it was realized between 1998 and 2008. It required a collaboration of over 10000 scientists and hundreds of universities and laboratories, as well as more than 100 countries. It first started up on 10 September 2008, and remains the latest addition to CERN's accelerator complex.

### 3.1 An insight into LHC structure

The LHC consists of a ring 27-kilometers long of superconducting magnets with a number of accelerating structures to boost the energy of the particles along the way. Inside the accelerator, two high-energy particle beams travel at relativistic speed, close to the speed of light  $c$ . Before they are made to collide, they both are accelerated to a energy of the order of TeV. The two beams travel in opposite directions in separate beam pipes, which are fundamentally two tubes kept at ultrahigh vacuum. They are guided around the accelerator ring by a strong magnetic field maintained by superconducting electromagnets, built from coils of special electric cable that operates in a superconductive state. It is of primary importance to conduct electricity with the lowest resistance, therefore loss of energy, possible. Such technique requires cooling the magnets to a temperature close to 0 K, which is even colder than the outer space. In order to get those temperatures, much of the accelerator is connected to a distribution system of liquid helium and the cooling phase takes a long time.

Thousands of magnets of different varieties and sizes are exploited to direct the beams around the accelerator. In total, there are<sup>4</sup>:

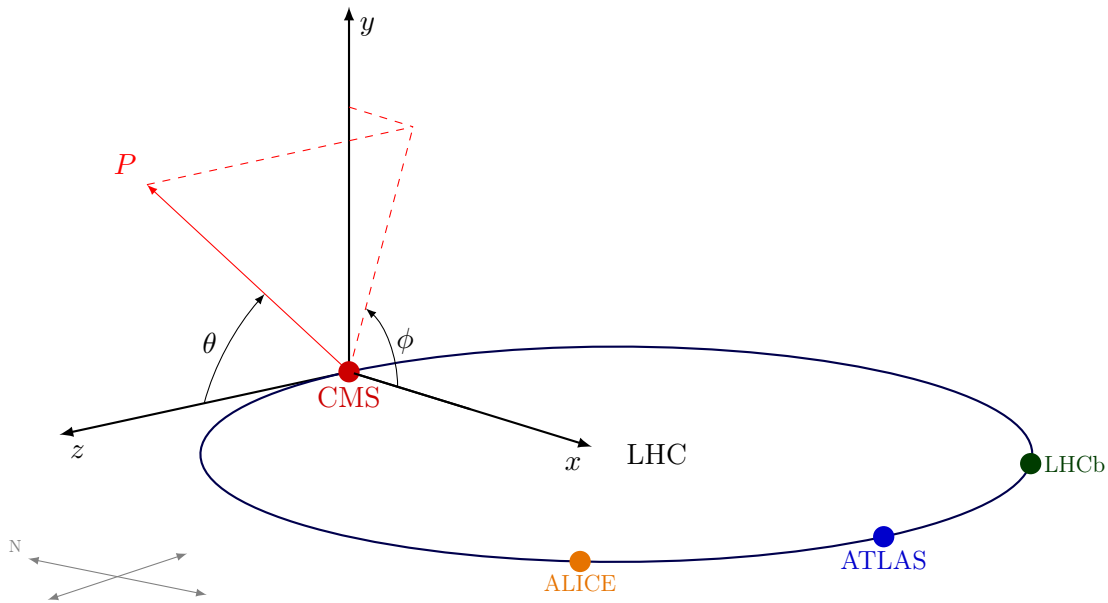
- 1232 dipole magnets whose length is 15 metres and their purpose is bending the beams.
- 392 quadrupole magnets, each 5-7 metres long, which focus the beams, thanks to their properties of magnetic lens.

Just prior to collision, another type of magnet is used to 'squeeze' the particles closer together to increase the chances of collisions. In fact, the particles can be imagined as very tiny objects, so it is clear that the task of making them collide must be thought with such precision.

The beams inside LHC are made to collide at four locations around the accelerator ring, corresponding to the positions of four particle detectors: CMS, ATLAS, ALICE and LHCb. Their placement

---

<sup>4</sup>These technical details are taken from the official website of CERN [17].



**Figure 3.1:** Schematization of LHC collider.

along the collider is showed in Figure 3.1. All the controls for the accelerator, its services and technical infrastructure are housed at the CERN Control Centre.

## 3.2 CMS experiment

The acronym CMS means Compact Muon Solenoid and it is a general-purpose detector amongst one of the four mentioned before. It has a broad physics programme ranging from studying the Standard Model to searching for extra dimensions and particles that could make up dark matter, whose existence belongs to physics beyond the SM. CMS also stands for one of the largest international scientific collaborations in history, involving over 4000 particle physicists, engineers, technicians, students and support staff from around 200 institutes and universities from more than 40 countries.

It is built around a huge solenoid magnet. This takes the form of a cylindrical coil of superconducting cable that generates a field of 4 Tesla. The importance of this value can be better understood thinking that it is 100000 times the magnetic field of Earth. The field is confined by a steel ‘yoke’ that forms the bulk of the detector, whose weight is about 14000 tons. It was built in 15 sections, which were reassembled in situ. The detector gets its name from the fact that:

- It is 15 metres high and 21 metres long, so it is quite compact for all the detector material it contains.
- It is designed to detect particles known as muons (and indicated with  $\mu$ ) very accurately.
- It has the most powerful solenoid magnet ever made.

The detector is shaped like a cylindrical onion, with several concentric layers of components. These components help prepare ‘photographs’ of each collision event by determining the properties of the particles produced in that particular collision. This is done by:

- **Bending particles:**

A powerful magnet is needed to bend charged particles as they fly outwards from the collision point. This process is done in order to identify the charge and to measure the momentum of the particle. In fact, positive and negative charged particles bend in opposite directions in the same magnetic field and, in particular, high momentum particles bend less compared with low-momentum ones.

## CMS DETECTOR

Total weight : 14,000 tonnes  
 Overall diameter : 15.0 m  
 Overall length : 28.7 m  
 Magnetic field : 3.8 T

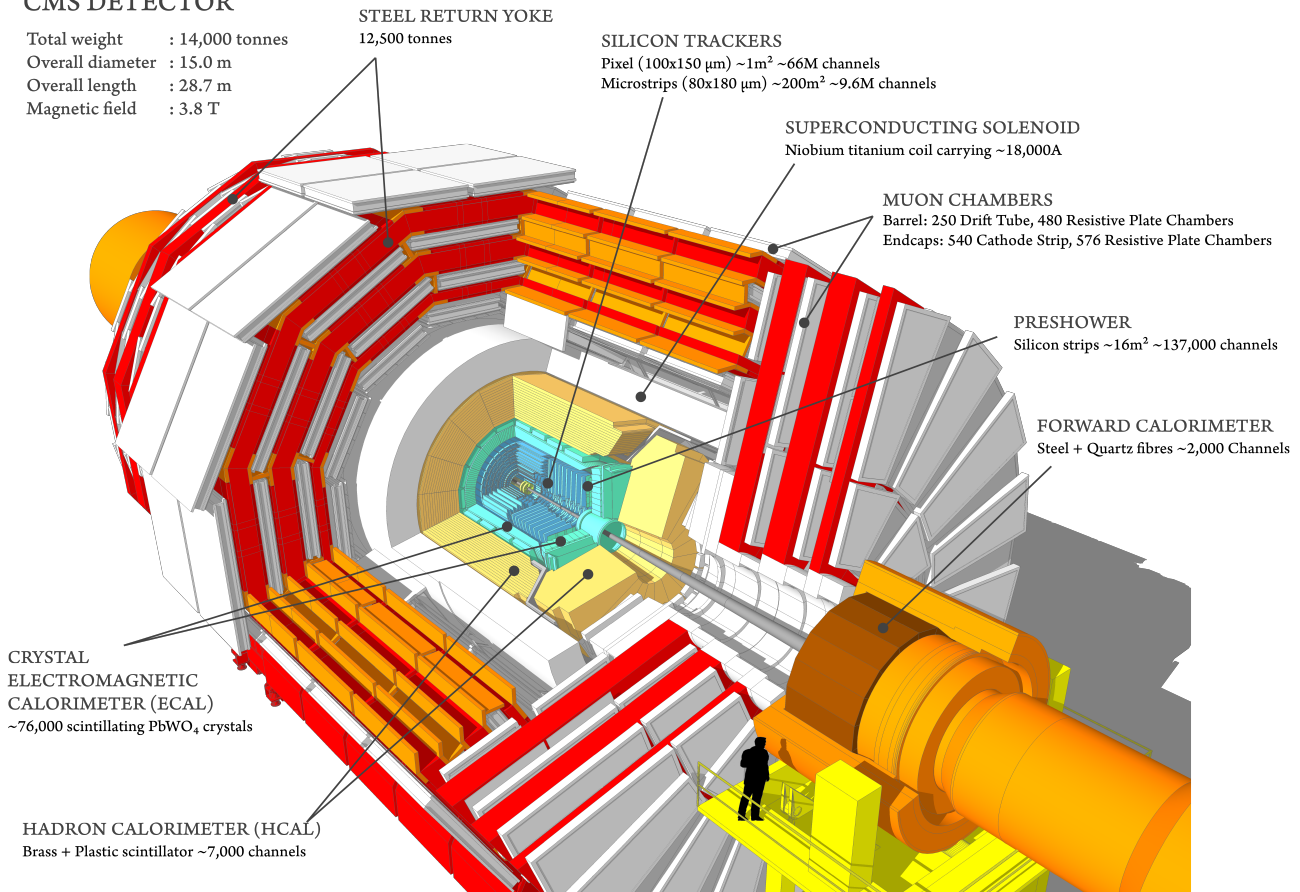


Figure 3.2: CMS detector section [18].

The solenoid magnet is formed by a cylindrical coil of superconducting fibres. A current up to 18500 A flows within these coils and it encounters no resistance for the phenomenon of superconductivity. The magnetic field of 4 T must be confined to the volume of the detector and is done by the steel ‘yoke’ that forms the bulk of the detector’s mass.

- **Identifying tracks:**

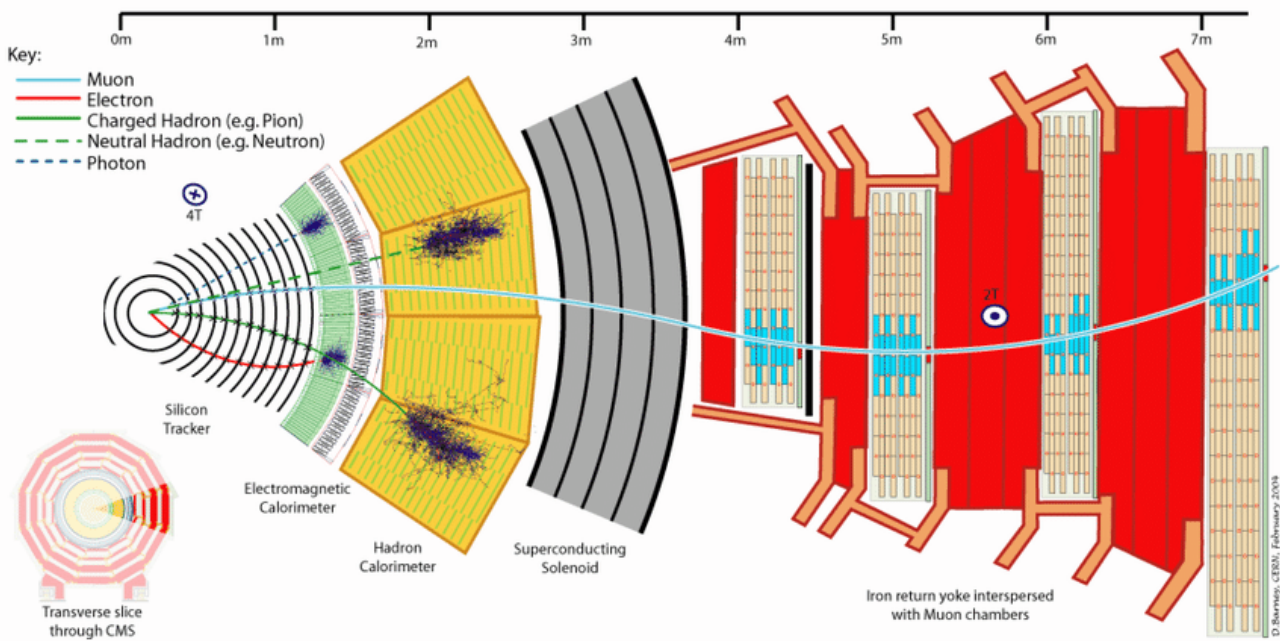
It is fundamental to identify the paths taken by the bent charged particles and it must be done with extreme precision. This is done by a silicon tracker made of around 75 million individual electronic sensors arranged in concentric layers. A charged particle that passes through these layers interacts electromagnetically with the silicon and produces a signal. The information carried by individual signals can be joined together in order to identify the track of the traversing particle.

- **Measuring energy:**

The energy of the various particles produced in each collision is a crucial information in the understanding of what happened in the collision process. This information is collected by calorimeters, which are particle detectors made to measure the energy. Inside CMS there are two types of these. The Electromagnetic Calorimeter (ECAL) is the inner layer of the two and measures the energy of electrons and photons by stopping them completely. The other particles, i.e. hadrons, fly through the ECAL and are stopped in the outer layer by the Hadron Calorimeter (HCAL).

- **Detecting muons:**

The final particles that CMS observe directly are the muons. They are not stopped by any calorimeter, so there are other special detectors interleaved with the return yoke of the solenoid. It is possible to measure each muon’s momentum both inside the superconducting coil (by the tracking devices) and outside of it (by the muon chambers).



**Figure 3.3:** CMS detector transverse section.

Thanks to the ensemble of all these components, it is possible to detect the energies of the products of the collision, except the energies carried by neutrinos  $\nu$ . In fact, these are elementary particles that can't be detected by this kind of detectors. Each layer of the composition gives an information about the processes happened after the collision. By putting together all of these informations, the intermediate states of the processes could be studied as well as the laws that regulate the whole process.

As stated before, every layer can give informations about an intermediate state. So the particles observed are not the initial products of the process, but they are the traces of pre-existing unstable particles that decay in other products before the detector could observe them. The intermediate unstable states are called resonances and to better understand them it is appropriate to describe the classical definition.

### 3.3 From data to discoveries: resonance formation study

Resonant phenomena are ubiquitous in Physics at both the macroscopic and microscopic levels. Resonances have an extremely important role in hadron spectroscopy.

In Classical Physics, a resonance is a phenomenon that occurs when the frequency at which a periodical force is applied is equal or nearly equal to one of the natural frequencies of the system on which it acts. The visible effect of the resonance is that the system oscillates to a larger amplitude respect to the one when a force is applied with a different frequency.

The first thing to do is to analyze this phenomenon in the case of an oscillating system with an external force that drives the oscillation. The second order differential equation that describes the system is the following one:

$$\frac{d^2x}{d\theta^2} + 2\gamma\omega_0 \frac{dx}{d\theta} + \omega_0^2 x = \frac{F_0}{m} \sin \Omega t = \Gamma \sin \Omega t \quad (3.1)$$

where  $F_0$  is the amplitude of the driving force,  $\Omega$  is its angular frequency,  $\omega_0$  is the undamped angular frequency and  $\gamma$  is the damping ratio. The general solution of this ODE is a combination of sinusoidal function exponentially damped and another sinusoidal function that describes a stationary state:

$$x(t) = Ae^{-\gamma\omega_0 t} \sin(2\gamma\omega_0 t + \phi) + B \sin(\Omega t - \delta) \quad (3.2)$$

where:

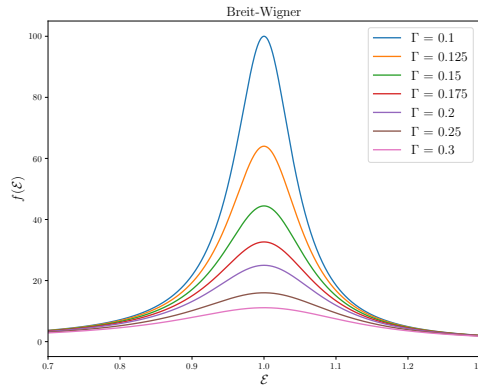
$$B = \frac{\Gamma}{\sqrt{(\omega_0^2 - \Omega^2)^2 + 4\gamma^2\omega_0^2\Omega^2}} \quad (3.3)$$

$$\delta = \arctan\left(\frac{2\gamma\omega_0\Omega}{\omega_0^2 - \Omega^2}\right) \quad (3.4)$$

The relation for the amplitude of the solution in the stationary state shows there is a maximum value for  $B$ , which is reached for a particular value of the angular frequency of the drive. It means that the system becomes resonant for a certain value of  $\Omega$  and the transfert of energy from the drive to the system is maximized.

Coming back to the field of subnuclear physics, a resonance appears with a shape similar to the one described by Equation 3.3. The function describing the resonance in this case is a Breit-Wigner, reported in Equation 3.5. In Figure 3.4 some examples are given.

$$f(\mathcal{E}) \propto \frac{1}{(\mathcal{E}^2 - M_R^2)^2 + M_R^2\Gamma^2} \quad (3.5)$$

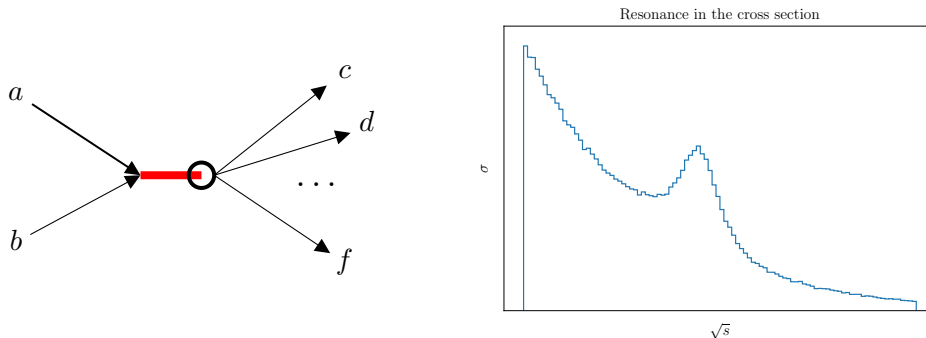


**Figure 3.4:** Resonance plot: Breit-Wigner with  $M_R = 1$  for different choices of  $\Gamma$ .

The extremely unstable hadrons can be observed as ‘resonances’ in two different ways [19]. The first approach is searching for very unstable particles by measuring as a function of energy the cross section  $\sigma$  of processes of the following type:

$$a + b \longrightarrow c + d + \dots + f \quad (3.6)$$

In a quantum scattering process the relevant functions of energy are the scattering amplitude and the cross section, which is the measured observable. Near a resonance, the distribution of  $\sigma$  will remark the shape of the resonant peak in Figure 3.4.



**Figure 3.5:** Schematic of a resonance formation study in the cross section.

The second approach, corresponding to a specific class of experiments, is based on resonance production. To better explain the method, let's suppose we are studying the following process:

$$a + b \longrightarrow c + d + e \quad (3.7)$$

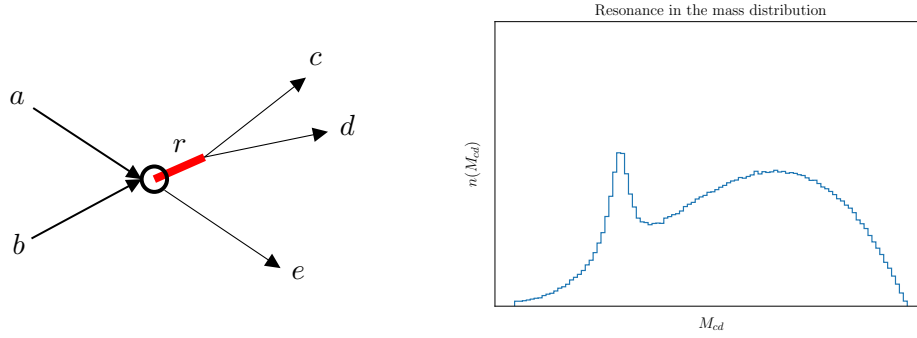
where we are searching for a particle decaying into the stable or metastable particles  $c$ ,  $d$ . In this example, this particle will be called  $r$ , which obviously stands for resonance. If  $r$  exists, the decay process could develop into a second channel:

$$a + b \longrightarrow r + e \longrightarrow c + d + e \quad (3.8)$$

In these cases, the mass of  $c + d$ , called  $M_{cd}$ , is expected to be equal to the mass of  $r$ , called  $M_r$ , and it follows a Breit-Wigner distribution peaked at  $M_r$  and with width  $\Gamma$ . If the decay goes directly in the final state (this is the non-resonant process),  $M_{cd}$  can have any value in the range imposed by physical constraints of energy and momentum conservation, as it is a three-body decay process, and there is no peak in the distribution. Now, we have to measure the energies and the momenta for each event in order to compute:

$$M_{cd} = \sqrt{(\mathcal{E}_c + \mathcal{E}_d)^2 - (\vec{p}_c + \vec{p}_d)^2} \quad (3.9)$$

The resonance appears as a peak on a smooth background in the  $M_{cd}$  distribution.



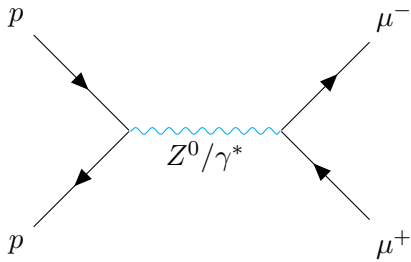
**Figure 3.6:** Schematic of a resonance formation study in the mass distribution.



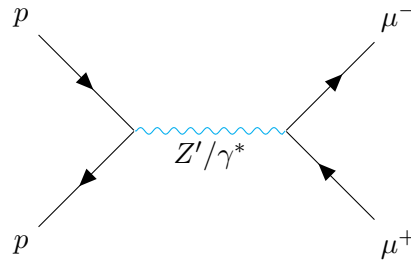
# Chapter 4

## $Z \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ decaying process

The process studied in this thesis work is the decay of  $Z$  boson, generated by  $pp$  collisions, into a pair of muon and antimuon. The scheme of the decay is showed in Figure 4.1. This is the prevision in the hypothesis of SM, where the  $Z$  boson is commonly represented with the symbol  $Z^0$ . The presence of a new physics scenario is modeled by the existence of a new boson, which is commonly indicated in literature with  $Z'$ . In this case, the scheme of the decay is practically similiar and it is showed in Figure 4.2.



**Figure 4.1:**  $Z$  decay in the hypothesis of SM.



**Figure 4.2:**  $Z'$  decay in the new physics scenario.

The new physics process can be studied by searching for resonant phenomena, for example bumps in the distributions of a set of observables in a zone where only background is expected to be present. However, this is not the only case possible in the wide variety of new physics scenarios. In fact, the existence of new phenomena could not lead to a resonant peak in the distribution of the high level features, but in general to a different shape in the same distributions. For example, there could be a different slope in the exponential falling distribution of background events in the SM hypothesis.

Neural Networks can be employed in both cases, in general with different performances. The purpose of this thesis work will focus mainly on the new physics scenario of resonant phenomena.

In the following discussion, the  $Z^0$  boson will be generally described along with its properties and the features employed for the purpose of this work are presented with plots of their distribution.

### 4.1 The $Z^0$ boson

The  $Z$  boson is an elementary particle which is the carrier of the weak force, along with the  $W$  boson. The difference with the ladder is that while the  $W$  boson is charged, the  $Z$  boson is neutral. It was discovered in 1983 at CERN at the Super Proton Synchrotron.

Since  $Z$  is neutral, the sum of the charges of its decay products must be 0 for the conservation of charge. So it goes without saying that  $Z$  must decay into a pair of a particle and its antiparticle. There are several possibilities for the decay process<sup>5</sup>:

- In 10% of  $Z$  decays charged lepton-antilepton pairs are produced. Therefore there are three sub-cases for the pairs:
  - ▷ electron-positron;

- ▷ muon-antimuon;
- ▷ tau-antitau;
- In 20% of cases it decays into a neutrino-antineutrino pair. However, they are invisible to the detector since they don't interact with anything, in fact they have no charge. A way to indirectly detect their presence is to check if there is some energy or transverse momentum missing after the collision. There are three possibilities for neutrino decay as well as for the pair of leptons.
- In 70% of cases the decay gives a quark-antiquark pair. These appear as particle showers called 'jets' in the detector. Concerning the possibilities for this mode of decay, quarks appear in six different types (up, down, charm, strange, top, bottom) and three different 'colours'. Therefore there are 18 possibilities for the quark-antiquark pair decay.

The set of possible cases counts 24 possibilities, 21 of which are visible. In this work only one will be considered, i.e. the muon-antimuon decay.

## 4.2 High-Level Features for $\mu^+ \mu^-$ decay analysis

The raw data taken by the detector after the collision is a set of low-level features, briefly LLFs, such as the muon and antimuon momenta. Since we are trying to understand the process in three dimensions with one of the axes aligned with the  $y$  component of the first muon, the LLFs of interest are  $p_{1,x}$ ,  $p_{1,z}$ ,  $p_{2,x}$ ,  $p_{2,y}$ ,  $p_{2,z}$ . To better study the decaying process, it is preferred to combine the low level features into the high-level ones, briefly HLFs.

Symbol	HLF name
$p_{T,1}$	Transverse momentum 1
$p_{T,2}$	Transverse momentum 2
$\eta_1$	Pseudorapidity 1
$\eta_2$	Pseudorapidity 2
$\Delta\phi$	Difference of azimuthal angles
$M_Z$	Invariant mass

**Table 4.1:** High Level Features legend.

The relations employed to obtain the values for the HLFs are reported in the Equations 4.1-4.6. The intermediate steps to get the results are reported as well for completeness<sup>6</sup>.

$$p_{T,1} = p_{1,x} \quad (4.1)$$

$$p_{T,2} = \sqrt{p_{2,x}^2 + p_{2,y}^2} \quad (4.2)$$

$$\eta_1 = \operatorname{arctanh} \left( \frac{p_{1,z}}{p_1} \right) \quad (4.3)$$

$$\eta_2 = \operatorname{arctanh} \left( \frac{p_{2,z}}{p_2} \right) \quad (4.4)$$

$$\Delta\phi = \phi_2 - \phi_1 \quad (4.5)$$

$$M_Z^2 = 2p_{T,1}p_{T,2}[\cosh(\eta_1 - \eta_2) - \cos \Delta\phi] \quad (4.6)$$

where:

<sup>5</sup>The information on the fractions of decay can be found in [20]

<sup>6</sup>Note that although the polar angle  $\theta$  is a HLF too, the pseudorapidity is a more common variable and so its usage is preferred in High-Energy Physics.

$$p_1 = \sqrt{p_{1,x}^2 + p_{1,z}^2} \quad (4.7)$$

$$p_2 = \sqrt{p_{2,x}^2 + p_{2,y}^2 + p_{2,z}^2} \quad (4.8)$$

$$\phi_1 = \arccos\left(\frac{p_{1,x}}{p_{T,1}}\right) \quad (4.9)$$

$$\phi_2 = \text{sign}(p_{2,y}) \arccos\left(\frac{p_{2,x}}{p_{T,2}}\right) + \pi[1 - \text{sign}(p_{2,y})] \quad (4.10)$$

### 4.3 The datasets analyzed

In order to build an analysis strategy and perform a test of its performances, two benchmark datasets were simulated and for each of them another dataset containing signal events beyond SM was generated. This phase was accomplished through the aid of the framework MADGRAPH5, assuming  $pp$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV. The detector response was also taken into account by DELPHES, showering and hadronization by PYTHIA. More informations on these softwares and on their usage can be found in [10].

A brief description of the two models studied is given:

- The first dataset, denoted with **Zmumu-Zprime**, is characterized by:
  - ▷ A ‘reference’ subset following a model with a Breit-Wigner invariant mass distribution, so with a resonant peak at  $M_Z \approx 91$  GeV, due to the  $Z$  boson.
  - ▷ A ‘signal’ subset whose invariant mass distribution exhibits a resonant peak at  $M_Z \approx 300$  GeV.
- The second dataset, denoted with **EFT\_YW06**, is characterized by:
  - ▷ a ‘reference’ subset following a model with a power-law descending invariant mass distribution with a resonant peak at  $M_Z \approx 91$  GeV, due to the  $Z$  boson.
  - ▷ a ‘signal’ subset whose invariant mass distribution is equal to the reference one, except for a different slope in the power-law descent.

The tag given to this dataset indicates an Effective Field Theory where the Yukawa coefficient is set to 0 for both signal and reference subsets and Wilson coefficient is set to 0 for reference and to  $10^{-6}$  for signal subset. The electromagnetic coupling term  $\alpha$  is set to  $\approx 1/127.9$  for both subsets.

For every case presented, the HLFs were extrapolated by the five independent momenta components. The distributions of the features are showed in following plots, in Figure 4.3 for **Zmumu-Zprime** and in Figure 4.4 for **EFT\_YW06**.

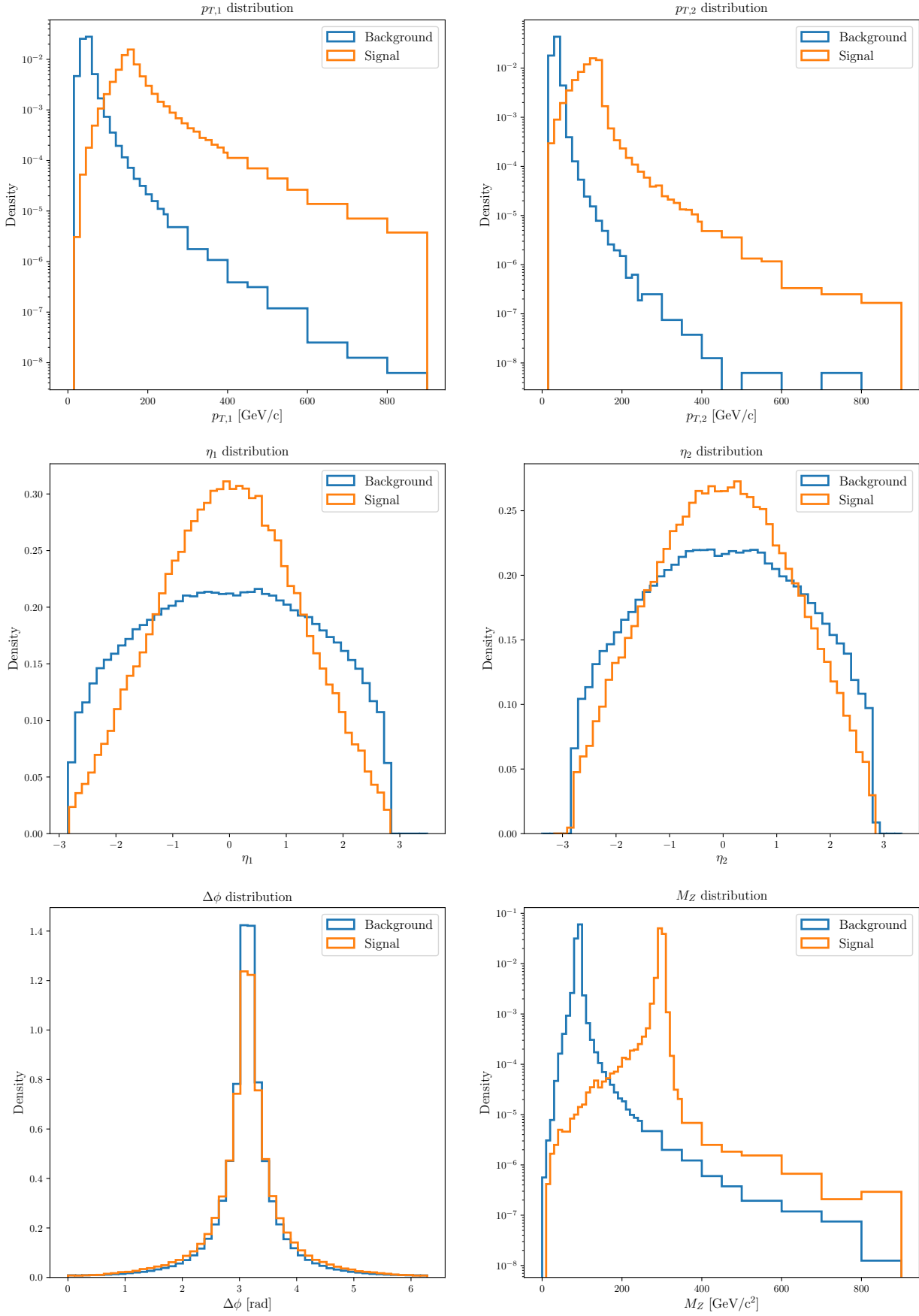


Figure 4.3: Distributions of the features for Zmumu-Zprime.

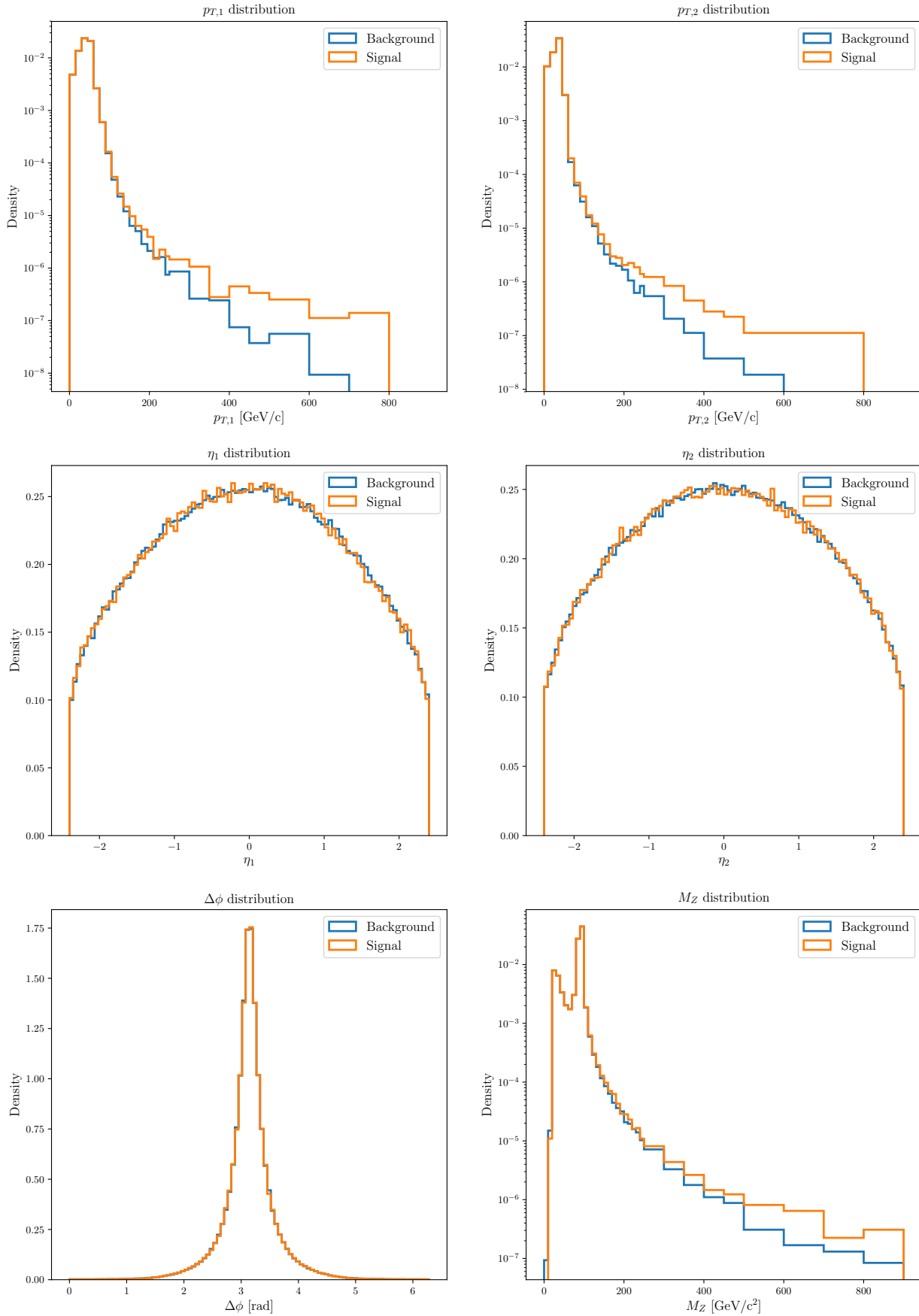


Figure 4.4: Distributions of the features for EFT\_YW06.



## Chapter 5

# Development of the algorithm for NP research

In this Chapter the foundations of the algorithm employed for data analysis will be carefully explained step by step. A good practice is to begin from the statistical foundations of the algorithm itself as it is set on non-trivial concepts. In the next step, a network shall be built for the purpose beginning from its architecture and then choosing proper activation functions, optimizer and weight initialization. Moreover, several crucial aspects that may cause difficulties in the work progression will be highlighted and faced in order to find the best solution or at least a compromise, if there isn't. Some of the problems that shall be faced are:

- The search for the number of degrees of freedom of the network employed.
- The look-elsewhere effect.
- The limitation of the phase-space of the NN free parameters, which means clipping the weights.

### 5.1 Statistical foundations

The entire construction of the statistical foundations of the procedure is accurately described in [2] for a monodimensional case. Here we recap the main steps to the construction of a hypothesis test and so of a variable with discriminating power, but for a multidimensional case. However, the logical steps remain unchanged.

#### 5.1.1 Construction of a test statistic

The starting point is a dataset of repeated measurements of a  $d$ -dimensional random variable  $x$ , distributed as the reference distribution  $n(x|\mathbf{R})$ . To compare the reference distribution with observed data an alternative hypothesis is needed, which means another distribution  $n(x|\mathbf{w})$ . It is convenient to parametrize  $n(x|\mathbf{w})$  in terms of  $n(x|\mathbf{R})$ . Moreover, we know that  $n(x|\mathbf{w})$  is strictly positive and since the log-likelihood ratio will be used later, we will express it as:

$$n(x|\mathbf{w}) = n(x|\mathbf{R}) e^{f(x;\mathbf{w})} \quad (5.1)$$

where  $f(x)$  is a function from a set  $\mathcal{F} = \{f(x; \mathbf{w}), \forall \mathbf{w}\}$ .

Now that the set of alternative hypotheses is built in a parametrized form, the optimal statistical test for the reference model is defined by the Neyman-Pearson construction, which is based on the maximum likelihood principle<sup>7</sup>. The idea is to compare  $n(x|\mathbf{R})$  with the best fit distribution  $n(x|\hat{\mathbf{w}})$ , where  $\hat{\mathbf{w}}$  is the one that maximizes the likelihood. Hence, the test statistic is:

$$t(\mathcal{D}) = 2 \log \left[ \frac{\mathcal{L}_{\hat{\mathbf{w}}}}{\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{R}}} \right] = 2 \log \left[ \frac{e^{-N(\hat{\mathbf{w}})}}{e^{-N(\mathbf{R})}} \prod_{x \in \mathcal{D}} \frac{n(x|\hat{\mathbf{w}})}{n(x|\mathbf{R})} \right] = -2 \min_{\{\mathbf{w}\}} \left[ N(\mathbf{w}) - N(\mathbf{R}) - \sum_{x \in \mathcal{D}} f(x; \mathbf{w}) \right] \quad (5.2)$$

where  $N(\mathbf{R})$  is the expected number of events in the reference model and  $N(\mathbf{w})$  is the expected number of events in the alternative hypothesis.  $N(\mathbf{w})$  can be computed by:

$$N(\mathbf{w}) = \int n(x|\mathbf{w})dx = \int n(x|\mathbf{R}) e^{f(x;\mathbf{w})} dx \quad (5.3)$$

The test statistic needs a consistent definition of a  $p$ -value. In order to compute it, we have to associate a probability to the value of  $t$ , denominated as  $t_{\text{obs}}$ , obtained using the observed dataset. For this reason we also have to find the PDF of  $t$  in the reference hypothesis and we can do it by evaluating  $t$  a sufficient number of times on a large sample of toy datasets. By this way, we can obtain the observed  $p$ -value:

$$p_{\text{obs}} = \int_{t_{\text{obs}}}^{\infty} P(t|\mathbf{R})dt \quad (5.4)$$

The key idea of [2], employed for the present work, is to parametrize the alternative hypothesis with neural networks for their properties of universal unbiased approximants.

### 5.1.2 Ideal test statistic

The results of the method that exploits the power of neural networks must be discussed in comparison with something we already know. It means that assuming we have complete knowledge of the distribution describing the observed data, an ideal test statistic could be defined and it will be the previous cited benchmark.

The alternative hypothesis with the assumption of complete knowledge will be denoted by ‘NP’ and it has no free parameters. In this case the test statistic becomes:

$$t_{\text{id}}(\mathcal{D}) = 2 \log \left[ \frac{\mathcal{L}_{\text{NP}}}{\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{R}}} \right] = 2 \log \left[ \frac{e^{-N(\text{NP})}}{e^{-N(\mathbf{R})}} \prod_{x \in \mathcal{D}} \frac{n(x|\text{NP})}{n(x|\mathbf{R})} \right] \quad (5.6)$$

According to the Neyman-Pearson lemma,  $t_{\text{id}}$  is the optimal discriminant between the reference and the new physics hypotheses. It produces the smallest median  $p$ -value if NP is the true distribution of the data sample. From this value, the ideal significance can be computed as stated in [3]:

$$\sigma_{\text{id}} = \sqrt{t_{\text{id}}} = \sqrt{2 \log \left[ \frac{\mathcal{L}_{\text{NP}}}{\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{R}}} \right]} \quad (5.7)$$

This test statistic is denoted as ‘ideal’ because it is the most suited to discover data departures from the reference model. However, it is not useful but as a benchmark because we can use it only when the true data distribution is known a priori. In our case we are testing the efficiency of a ML-approach and therefore the true distribution is known.

### 5.1.3 Adaptation of $t(\mathcal{D})$ as a loss function

The minimization in Equation 5.2 must be done numerically through the tools for neural network training discussed in Chapter 2. Before doing this, we have to express Equation 5.2 as a loss function.

The first thing to do is to estimate  $N(\mathbf{w})$ . This task can be done through Monte Carlo methods:

$$N(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{N(\mathbf{R})}{N_{\mathcal{R}}} \sum_{x \in \mathcal{R}} e^{f(x;\mathbf{w})} \quad (5.8)$$

---

<sup>7</sup>Let’s suppose we are performing a hypothesis test between two simple hypothesis  $H_0 = \{\theta = \theta_0\}$  and  $H_1 = \{\theta = \theta_1\}$  using the likelihood-ratio test:

$$\Lambda(x) := \frac{\mathcal{L}(\theta_0|x)}{\mathcal{L}(\theta_1|x)} \quad (5.5)$$

with a threshold  $\eta$ , for which  $H_0$  is rejected in favour of  $H_1$  at a significance level of  $\alpha = P(\Lambda(x) \leq \eta|H_0)$ . Then, the Neyman-Pearson lemma states that  $\Lambda(x)$  is the most powerful test at significance level  $\alpha$ .



where  $N_{\mathcal{R}}$  is the size of the reference dataset. Thus, Equation 5.2 becomes:

$$t(\mathcal{D}) = -2 \min_{\{\mathbf{w}\}} \left[ \frac{N(\mathbf{R})}{N_{\mathcal{R}}} \sum_{x \in \mathcal{R}} (e^{f(x; \mathbf{w})} - 1) - \sum_{x \in \mathcal{D}} f(x; \mathbf{w}) \right] \equiv -2 \min_{\{\mathbf{w}\}} L[f(\cdot, \mathbf{w})] \quad (5.9)$$

$L$  has the form of a loss function. It is convenient to write it as a single sum over events by introducing a target variable  $y$  such that:

- $x \in \mathcal{R} \implies y = 0$ ;
- $x \in \mathcal{D} \implies y = 1$ .

Thus the explicit expression of  $L$  is:

$$L[f] = \sum_{(x,y)} \left[ (1-y) \frac{N(\mathbf{R})}{N_{\mathcal{R}}} (e^{f(x)} - 1) - y f(x) \right] \quad (5.10)$$

The trained neural network, denoted with its output  $f(x; \hat{\mathbf{w}})$ , is simply the maximum likelihood fit to the data and reference distributions log-ratio. It is the best approximant of the true underlying data distribution  $n(x|\mathbf{T})$ :

$$f(x; \hat{\mathbf{w}}) \approx \log \left[ \frac{n(x|\mathbf{T})}{n(x|\mathbf{R})} \right] \quad (5.11)$$

## 5.2 The algorithm

The network architecture chosen for the task has the following characteristics:

- 3 fully-connected layers, with the first and the second ones with five neurons each and the last one with only one output neuron. Therefore the input is multidimensional since it is the set of HLFs (except for the invariant mass  $M_Z$ ) for every event.
- The activation functions chosen are sigmoids for the first and second layer, while a linear activation is employed for the last layer.

The loss function employed is reported in the previous Section in Equation 5.10 and it is adapted for the task. Its minization is done by ADAM optimizer. The initialization of the free parameters is the normal random initialization. A clip to the weights is applied in the case they go out of a prearranged interval. The discussion on the weight clipping is studied in deeper in the subsequent Sections. Lastly, the set of the HLFs is standardized before giving it to the input neurons. Suppose  $\{x\}$  is a set of a single HLF,  $\xi$  its mean and  $\sigma$  its standard deviation, then the rule employed for the standardization is the following:

$$\begin{cases} \text{if } \min(\{x\}) < 0 & \implies \{x\} \longrightarrow \frac{\{x\} - \xi}{\sigma} \\ \text{else if } \max(\{x\}) > 1 & \implies \{x\} \longrightarrow \frac{\{x\}}{\xi} \\ \text{else} & \implies \{x\} \longrightarrow \{x\} \end{cases} \quad (5.12)$$

The scheme of the algorithm is the following:

- A sufficiently large reference sample is randomly selected from the whole dataset following the reference distribution. Then a data sample with background events is randomly selected from the entire dataset and no signal is added. The network is trained for 300k epochs with these data and the output of the process is the minimized loss function. From this value, the final  $t$  is computed as minus two times the minimized loss function.
- The previous step is repeated a certain number of times in order to sample the distribution of  $t$  in the reference hypothesis (as no signal event is added in the data sample yet). The desired number of  $t$  necessary to the following steps must be considered carefully because the procedure is computationally expensive and its complexity grows linearly with the number of events in the reference sample.

- When the distribution of  $t$  in the reference hypothesis is sampled, the first step is repeated but adding a certain number of signal events in the data sample. The output of the process, i.e. the minimized loss, is translated into the value of  $t_{\text{obs}}$ .
- The distribution of  $t$  and  $t_{\text{obs}}$  are used to compute a  $p$ -value  $p_{\text{obs}}$ , which is the area under the tail.
- If the value of  $p_{\text{obs}}$  is sufficiently small, it signals a tension with the reference hypothesis. Hence, anomalies are detected and they can be analyzed through the log-ratio  $f(x; \hat{\mathbf{w}})$ .

### 5.3 Computing resources

Suppose one wants to sample 200 values of  $t$  in the reference hypothesis. Moreover, suppose that the execution of a single process to obtain a single value of  $t$  takes about 1 day. It is clear that doing this task on a single machine is computationally very expensive. Assuming this machine could run 10 processes at the same time without swapping, it would take 20 days to get the desired results. Considering that the entire procedure has to be repeated for different conditions and for several numbers of events in the reference sample, it is totally inconceivable to do everything on a single machine.

Another aspect has to be taken into account. Writing the code that executes the algorithms described above could be quite tricky and unavoidable mistakes in the phase of implementation don't agree with the long execution time if we want to check the results for every change.

In this Section a solution for each of these difficulties encountered is presented.

#### 5.3.1 TENSORFLOW back-end and KERAS API

The programming language chosen for the work is PYTHON 3. Its simplicity and power were crucial in the selection. Moreover, there exists very powerful tools that address Machine Learning problems and which can make the code easier to write and understand.

The API employed for the task is KERAS, which is an open source library specialized for automatic learning tasks. It was used with TENSORFLOW as back-end. The latter is the most common Machine Learning library up to now and it provides tools not only for Deep Learning problems, but for every Machine Learning problem conceivable. For more information, see [5], [6] and [7].

A bunch of code to build the network and to train it is reported below to give an idea of its clarity. In the following example the architecture of the net is (5,5,1) and the code is reported in a simplified version.

```
import keras

inputs= keras.layers.Input(shape=(5,))
dense = keras.layers.Dense(5, activation='sigmoid')(inputs)
dense = keras.layers.Dense(5, activation='sigmoid')(dense)
output= keras.layers.Dense(1, activation='linear')(dense)

model = Model(inputs=[inputs], outputs=[output])

model.compile(loss=Loss,
              optimizer='adam')

model.fit(x_train,
          y_train,
          epochs=300000,
          batch_size=batch_size,
          verbose=0,
          shuffle=False)
```

### 5.3.2 LSF and clustering

In order to speed up the sampling of  $t$  distribution, the algorithm was parallelized on a cluster of machines. This should be intended that different processes were executed simultaneously on different machines and not that a single process was executed on more machines.

The machines used for the task are sited in Legnaro and Padua. The processes sent to them are called `bjobs` and the sending procedure is done by LSF, which stands for Load Sharing Facilities. Every `bjob` must be sent by a script, launched through `bsub` command. Before doing this, a configuration procedure of the machine, through which the jobs are dispatched, has to be done. To make this procedure easier, the access to this machine was done through `CLOUDVENETO`. A virtual machine instance was created and connected to the LSF sender. It was then personalized to run a python script with these functionalities:

- It configures the environment variables of the machines in order to let the necessary packages accessible by the system. This phase was accomplished by the execution of another script accessible on `cvmfs` (CERN Virtual Machine File System). More informations on this tool are provided in [8].
- It creates the script that sends the job via LSF to the machines. This phase is executed a number of times equal to the number of toy samples, therefore equal to the number of  $t$  values we want.

The jobs sent to the machines are placed with their IDs in a queue. For this work, `cms-local-queues` were used, listed in Table 5.1.

Queue name	Max job number	Max job runtime
<code>local-cms-short</code>	500	1440 min
<code>local-cms-long</code>	300	10080 min

**Table 5.1:** Available queues.

Since the complexity scales up linearly with the number of events in the reference sample, runtime for jobs with wide reference sample overtake the limit of 1440 minutes of the short queue. Therefore the long queue was a better choice for the task. A list of the machines accessible by this queue and their characteristics are displayed in Table 5.2.

Machine id	Number of CPUs	Max Memory	Max Swap
<code>wp-05-01</code>	2	64554M	8191M
<code>w1-07-01</code>	2	64537M	8191M
<code>w1-07-02</code>	2	64537M	8191M
<code>w1-07-03</code>	2	64537M	8191M
<code>w1-07-04</code>	2	64537M	8191M
<code>w1-07-05</code>	2	64537M	8191M
<code>w1-07-06</code>	2	64537M	8191M
<code>w1-07-07</code>	2	64537M	8191M
<code>w1-07-08</code>	2	64537M	8191M
<code>w1-07-09</code>	2	64537M	8191M
<code>w1-07-10</code>	2	64537M	8191M

**Table 5.2:** Machines and resources.

## 5.4 Degrees of freedom of the network

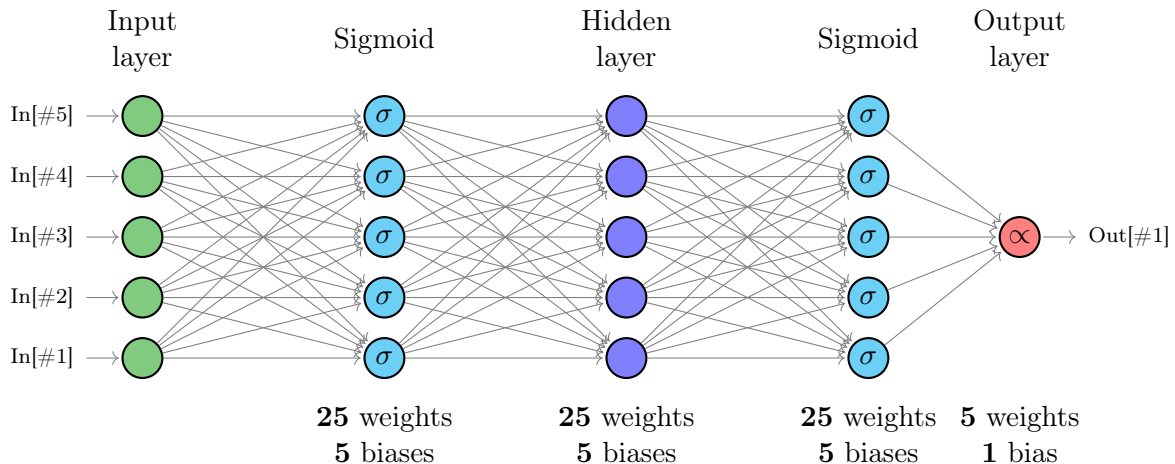
Trying to understand the exact number of the degrees of freedom (briefly ‘dofs’) of a neural network is not a trivial task. This number must reflect the wideness of the space of functions the network can

span. A more complex network will obviously be characterized by a larger number of dofs.

A possible approach to determine a convention for the number of dofs starts from the free parameters of the network. If there are  $n$  weight parameters and  $m$  biases, the number of dofs  $\nu$  can be estimated by:

$$\nu = n + m \quad (5.13)$$

Therefore, given the network architecture, the number of layers, neurons and the activations, we can give a definition adapted to the case we are studying. A scheme of the network employed is given in Figure 5.1, which makes easier to understand how the connections between different layers work and the way data flow through the net.



**Figure 5.1:** Neural Network scheme to evaluate the number of degrees of freedom.

Every neuron in the middle layers is connected to five neurons of the following layer, including also sigmoid layers. The neurons in the last sigmoid layer are connected with only one neuron, which is the unique one of the output layer. Considering that for every neuron except the ones in the input layer there is a bias parameter, the quantities of  $n$ ,  $m$  and  $\nu$  previously defined are:

$$\begin{aligned} n &= 80 \\ m &= 16 \end{aligned} \implies \nu = 96 \quad (5.14)$$

Thus, the expected dofs of the networks employed is 96.

## 5.5 The ‘look-elsewhere’ effect

To explain this peculiar effect, let’s take the example in [21]. Imagine a common case such as looking for a heavy particle decaying into a pair of hadronic jets. We assume we have complete knowledge of the background model and that we know what kind of bump a new physics signal would produce in the shape of background distribution. Because we don’t know exactly where it might appear, we search everywhere in the data.

When data analysis is completed, suppose we find a significant bump at some particular mass value. To claim it is a new signal, the effect must reach or exceed the well known  $5\sigma$  significance threshold. If this bump is below the  $5\sigma$  level, but with a consistent significance, let’s take  $3.5\sigma$ , we can’t claim a discovery although data seem to prove it. The look-elsewhere effect could have led us to a trap. We looked in many places for a possible signal and found a significant effect somewhere. The likelihood of finding something in the entire region we analyzed is greater than it would be if we had stated beforehand where the signal would be. In fact, we have to take into account the probability boost determined by looking in many places.

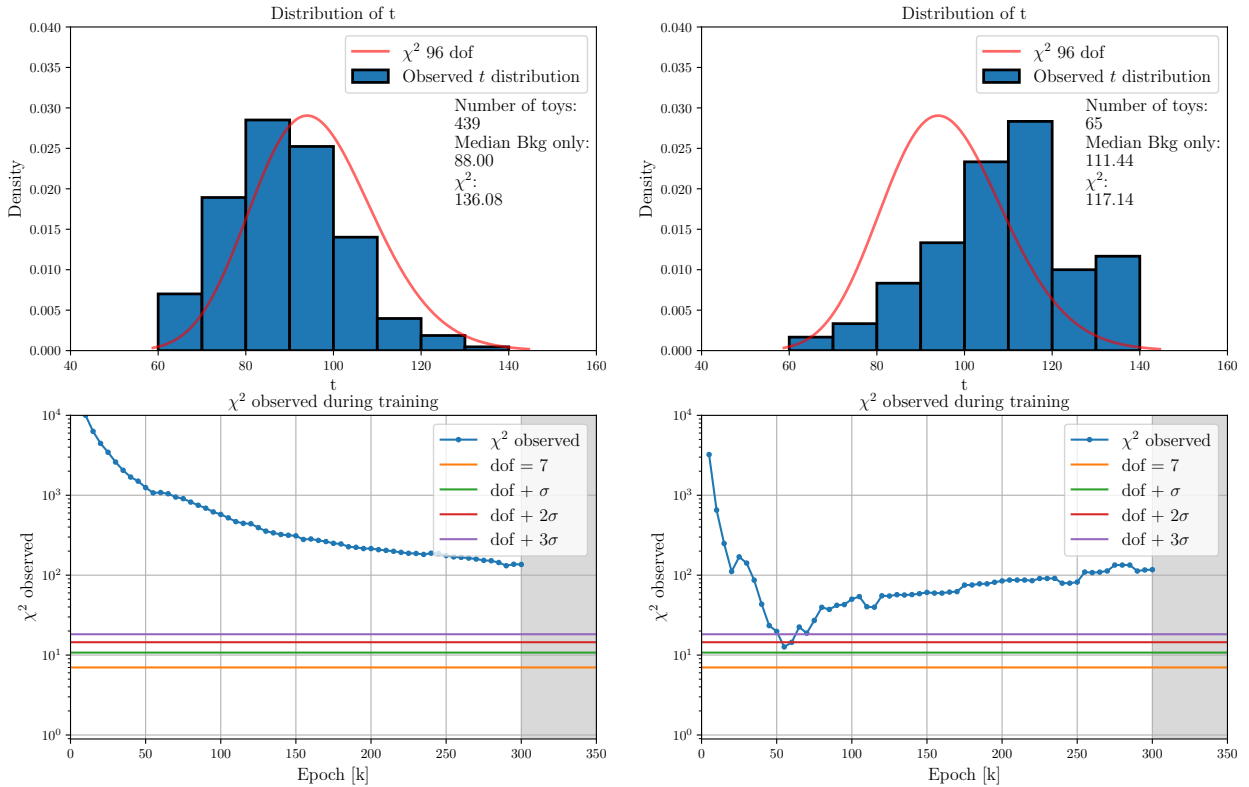
The  $5\sigma$  rule was conceived with exactly this particular effect in mind. This threshold means extremely rare occurrence (just to have an idea, three out of ten million), so even including the look-elsewhere effect, it is still something to take quite seriously.

Employing a neural network in the procedure exposed in this work introduces this effect because new physics signals are searched ranging in the entire dataset. This is the main limiting factor of the technique. However, this problem can't be avoided in any attempt to search for new physics model-independently. Thus it is not a limitation of the method itself. Moreover, it is important to remark that the entire construction done in this work aims to test the performance of a method and so how it can be enhanced.

## 5.6 Weight clipping

The algorithm necessarily requires some sort of regularization because the loss function is unbounded from below. It means that it approaches negative infinity if the output of the network  $f$  diverges at some value of  $x \in \mathcal{D}$ . The highly negative values of the minimized loss function become high positive values of  $t$ .

These dangerous configurations are avoided by enforcing an upper bound, namely a ‘weight clipping’ parameter  $W$ , on the absolute value of each weight. However, the choice of this parameter is of critical importance and it must be tuned correctly if we want to get reasonable results. In fact, it is known from theoretical arguments that the distribution of  $t$  in the reference hypothesis will asymptotically follow a  $\chi^2$  distribution with a number of dofs equal to the number of free parameters. If we set a too low weight clipping, the sampled distribution will be shifted to the left of the expected distribution. On the contrary, if we set a too high weight clipping, there will be a right shift. An example of the two cases is showed in Figure 5.2<sup>8</sup>.



**Figure 5.2:** Wrong choices of  $W$  with **Zmumu-Zprime** dataset. Left side: results for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 200\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{bkg}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{sig}} = 0$ ,  $W = 2.2$ . Right side: results for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 1000\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{bkg}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{sig}} = 0$ ,  $W = 3.0$ .

<sup>8</sup>The value of the  $\chi^2$  reported in these plots and in the ones in the following Chapter is the result of a  $\chi^2$  test applied to the  $N$  bins of the histogram in order to verify the compatibility of  $t$  distribution with the expected one. Denoting with  $O_i$  and  $E_i$  respectively the observed and the expected values for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  bin, it is computed through:

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i} \quad (5.15)$$



# Chapter 6

## Tuning of weight clipping parameter

In the final part of the previous Chapter the procedure of weight clipping was introduced and explained. In this one a systematic approach for weight clipping parameter tuning is developed. The procedure is then tested with several cases, where the difference is in the size of the reference sample. It is important to highlight that in this procedure no signal event is given to the network because we are trying to search the optimal  $W$  for which the distribution of  $t$  converges after training to a  $\chi^2$  distribution with 96 dofs.

Beside searching the optimal weight clipping for each case, another aim is to find a trend for  $W$  in order to avoid the tuning when data samples of new sizes are given to the net. The cases studied for the test are listed below in Table 6.1.

n° of test	Reference size	Data size [Zmumu-Zprime]	Data size [EFT_YW06]
1	100k	20k Bkg   0 Sig	20k
2	200k	20k Bkg   0 Sig	20k
3	300k	20k Bkg   0 Sig	20k
4	500k	20k Bkg   0 Sig	20k
5	1000k	20k Bkg   0 Sig	20k

Table 6.1: Size of the datasets for different tests.

### 6.1 A criterion for optimal weight clipping

As suggested in the previous discussion, the optimal weight clipping is reached when the sampled distribution of  $t_{\text{obs}}$  resembles the expected distribution of a  $\chi^2$  with 96 dofs. Therefore, after setting a value for  $W$  and sampling a certain number of  $t$  values, a compatibility test has to be applied with the expected distribution. A good choice for this purpose is putting the sampled  $t$ s in a histogram and applying a  $\chi^2$  test between the latter and the expected distribution, put in a histogram as well. Now the possible cases are the following:

- If the observed  $\chi^2$  of the test statistic is beyond an equivalent threshold of  $3\sigma$ , the observed distribution has approximately converged to the reference one.
- If the threshold is not met, the weight clipping has to be lowered or increased depending on the trend of the observed  $\chi^2$  of test statistic during training.
  - ▷ If there is a valley and after reaching a minimum the observed  $\chi^2$  begins to grow, the weight clipping has to be lowered.
  - ▷ If there isn't a minimum but the observed  $\chi^2$  is still decreasing at the end of training, the weight clipping has to be increased.

It is obvious that this method could be computationally very expensive. Finding an optimal value for  $W$  requires more trials and every trial requires a certain time as the number of  $t$  values needed to sample a distribution is  $\gtrsim 10^2$ . However, a good strategy to save a lot of time can be easily developed.

The starting point of the search should be the case with the smallest size of reference sample. In fact, training the network in this case requires a relative short time (for instance,  $\sim 8$  h), so more trials can be done without an excessive loss of time. Found the optimal  $W$  for this case, the next reference sample in increasing order of size should be used for training. The value of optimal  $W$  is expected to be greater than the one in the previous case. The explanation is that giving more reference data to the network is equivalent to have more statistic and so the danger of finding divergences in the training is lower. Hence,  $W$  can be set to a greater value as it is a regularization parameter. Moreover, if the size of reference is slightly increased, it is reasonable to think that the optimal weight clipping should be slightly greater as well than in the previous case.

## 6.2 Results for optimal weight clipping search

Only the best results for each case are reported in the Figures below. Four plots are given:

- The final sampled distribution of  $t$  along with the expected distribution at 96 dofs.
- Several quantiles of the observed  $t$  distribution. The quantiles chosen are 2.5%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 97.5%. The most important thing to note in this plot is the plateaux reached during training.
- $\chi^2$  over training related to the test statistic to assert the compatibility of  $t$  distribution and the expected one.
- $p$ -value over training related to the corresponding value of observed  $\chi^2$  in the previous plot. It is calculated considering a  $\chi^2$  distribution at  $N - 1$  dofs, where  $N$  is the number of bins.

### Zmumu-Zprime dataset

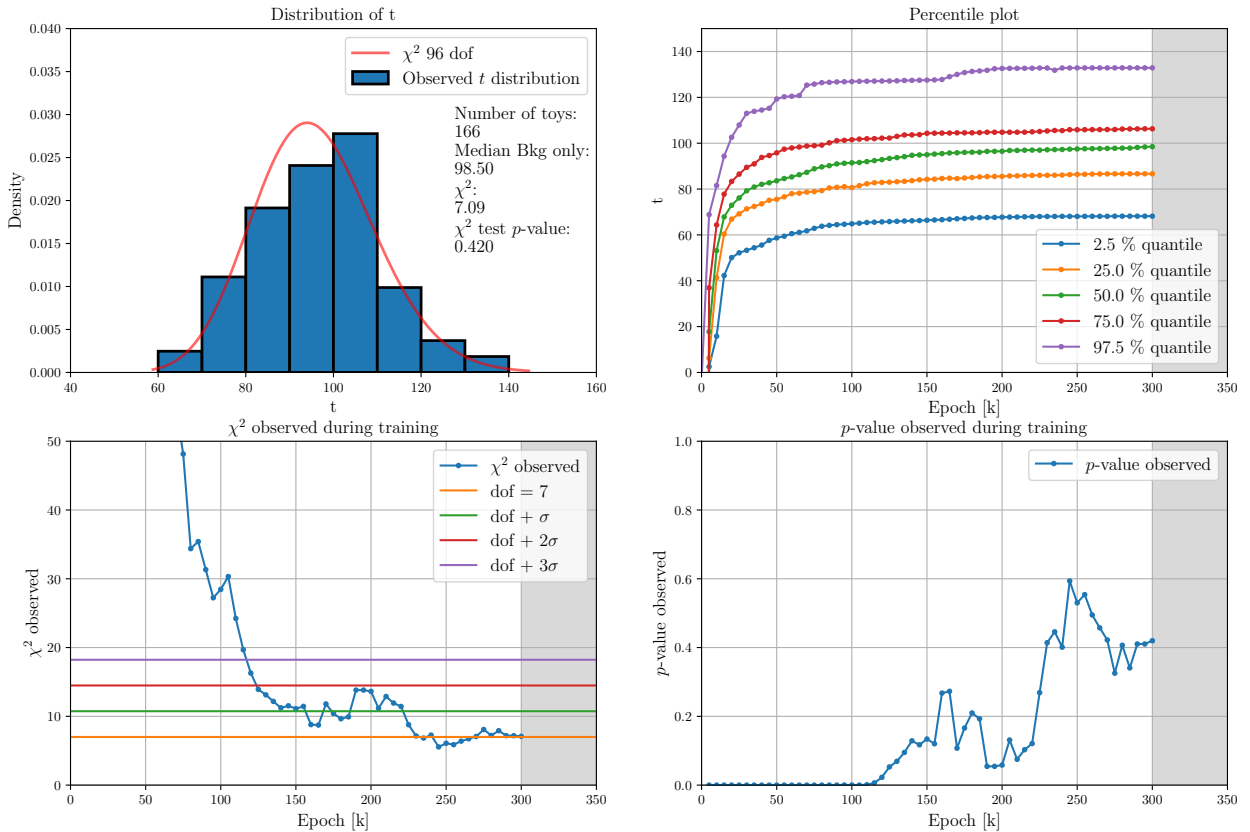
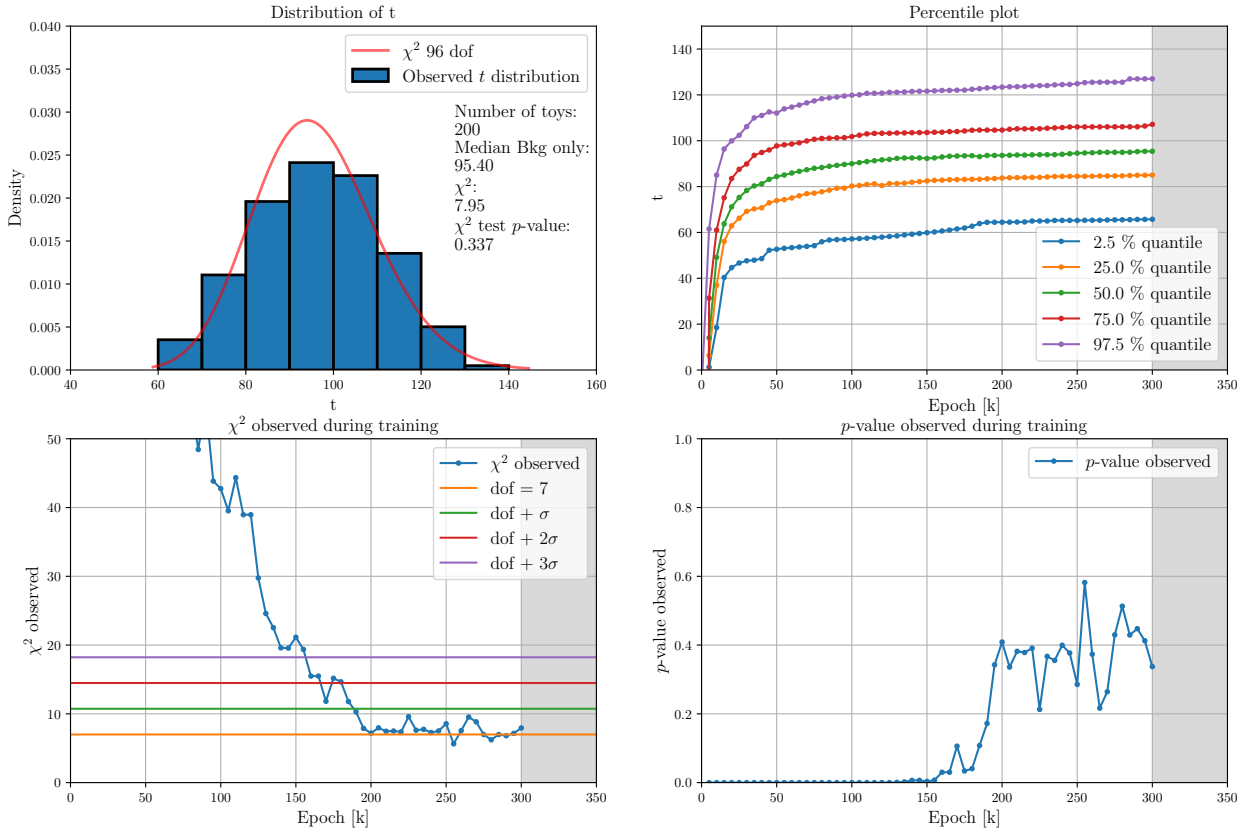
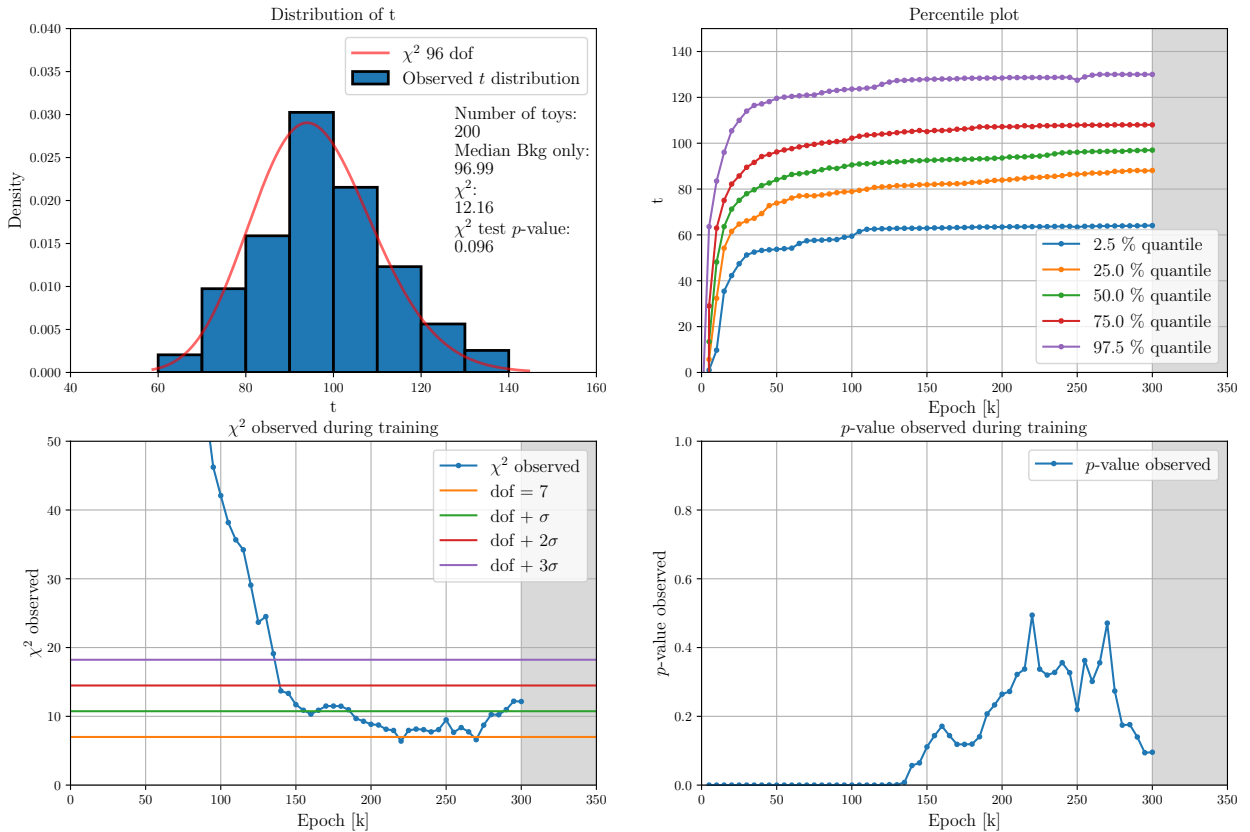


Figure 6.1: Optimal  $W$  search with **Zmumu-Zprime** dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 100\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{bkg}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $W = 2.15$ .





**Figure 6.2:** Optimal  $W$  search with **Zmumu-Zprime** dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 200\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{bkg}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $W = 2.4$ .



**Figure 6.3:** Optimal  $W$  search with **Zmumu-Zprime** dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 300\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{bkg}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $W = 2.45$ .

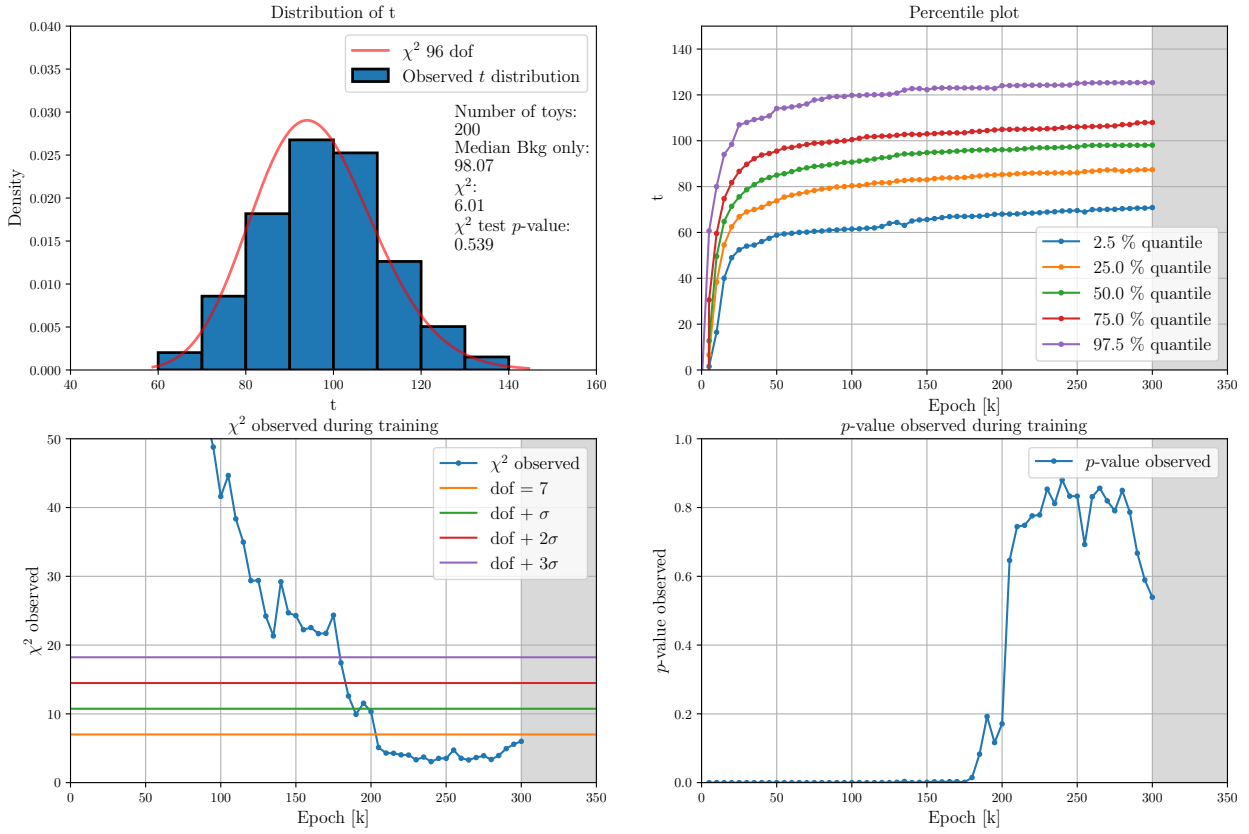


Figure 6.4: Optimal  $W$  search with **Zmumu-Zprime** dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 500\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{bkg}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $W = 2.55$ .

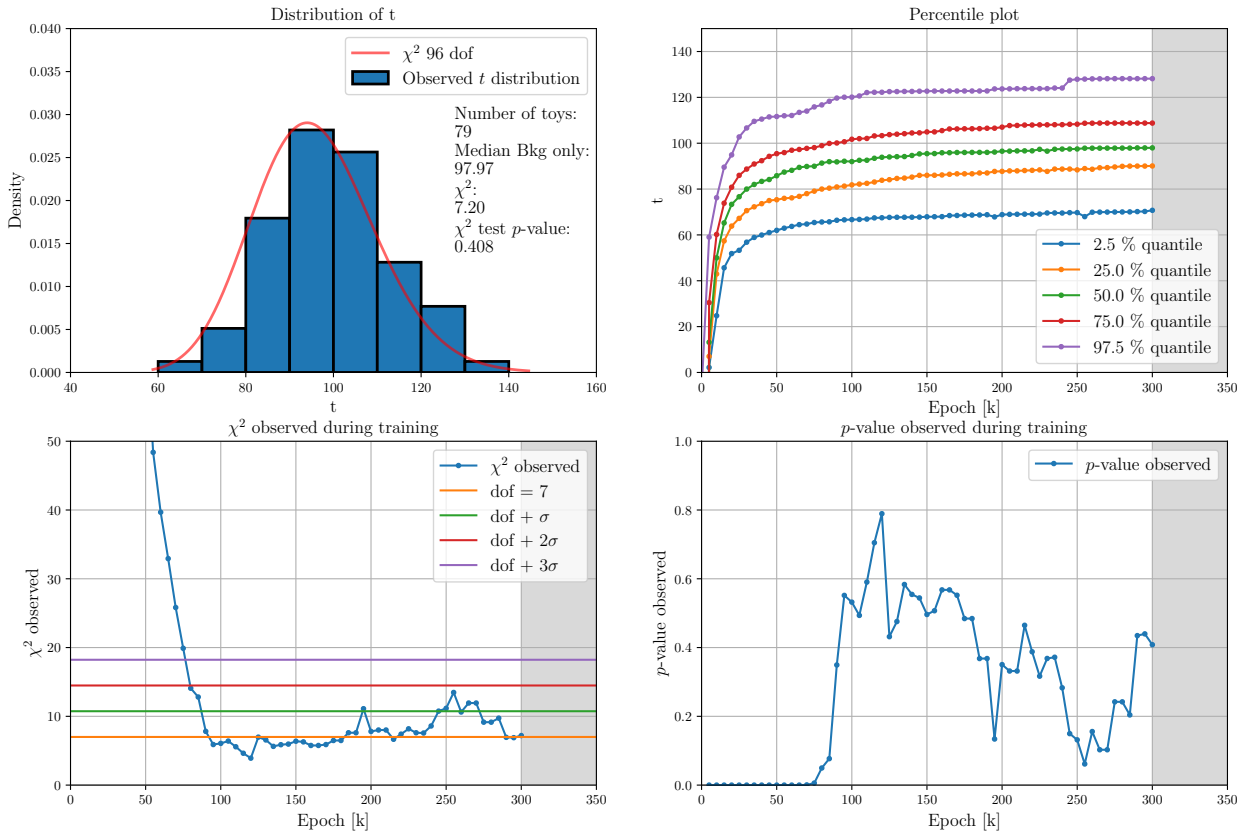


Figure 6.5: Optimal  $W$  search with **Zmumu-Zprime** dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 1000\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{bkg}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $W = 2.7$ .

## EFT\_YW06 dataset

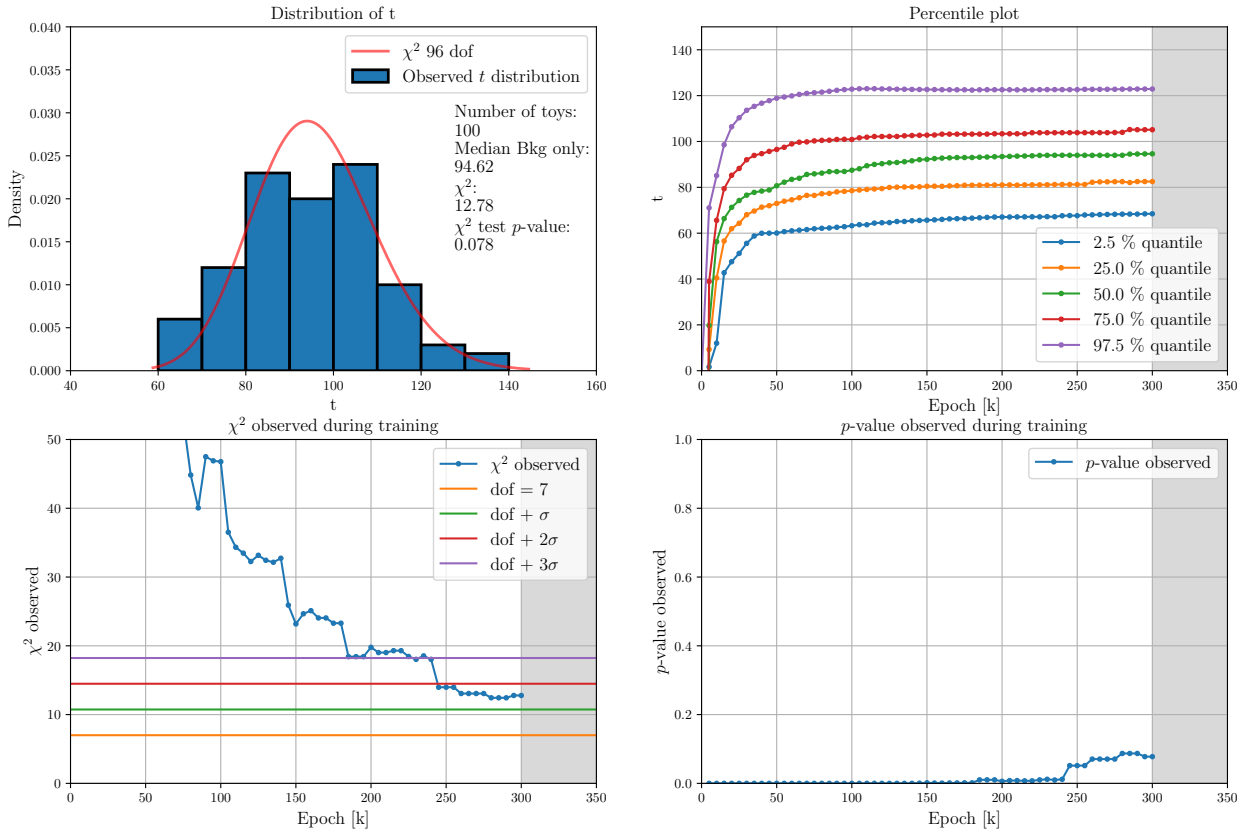


Figure 6.6: Optimal  $W$  search with **EFT\_YW06** dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 100\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{bkg}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $W = 2.25$ .

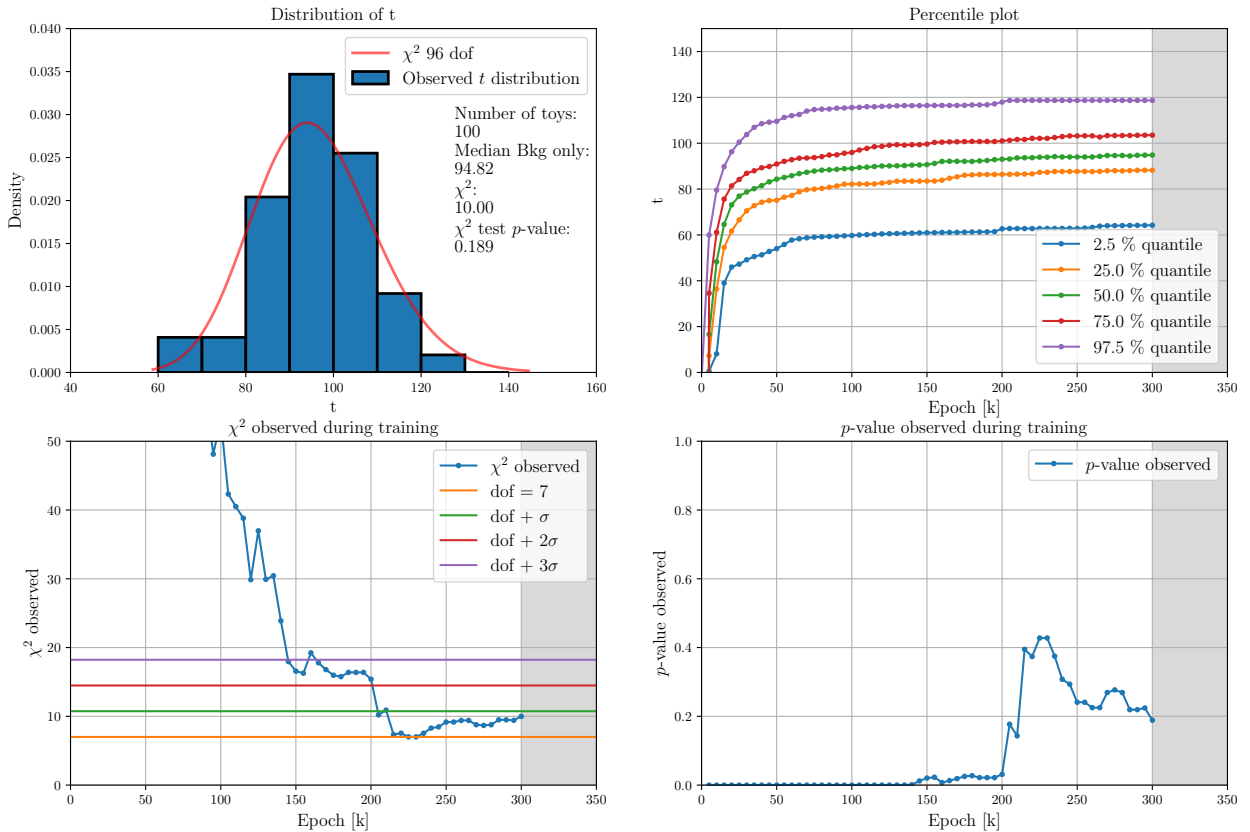


Figure 6.7: Optimal  $W$  search with **EFT\_YW06** dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 200\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{bkg}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $W = 2.4$ .

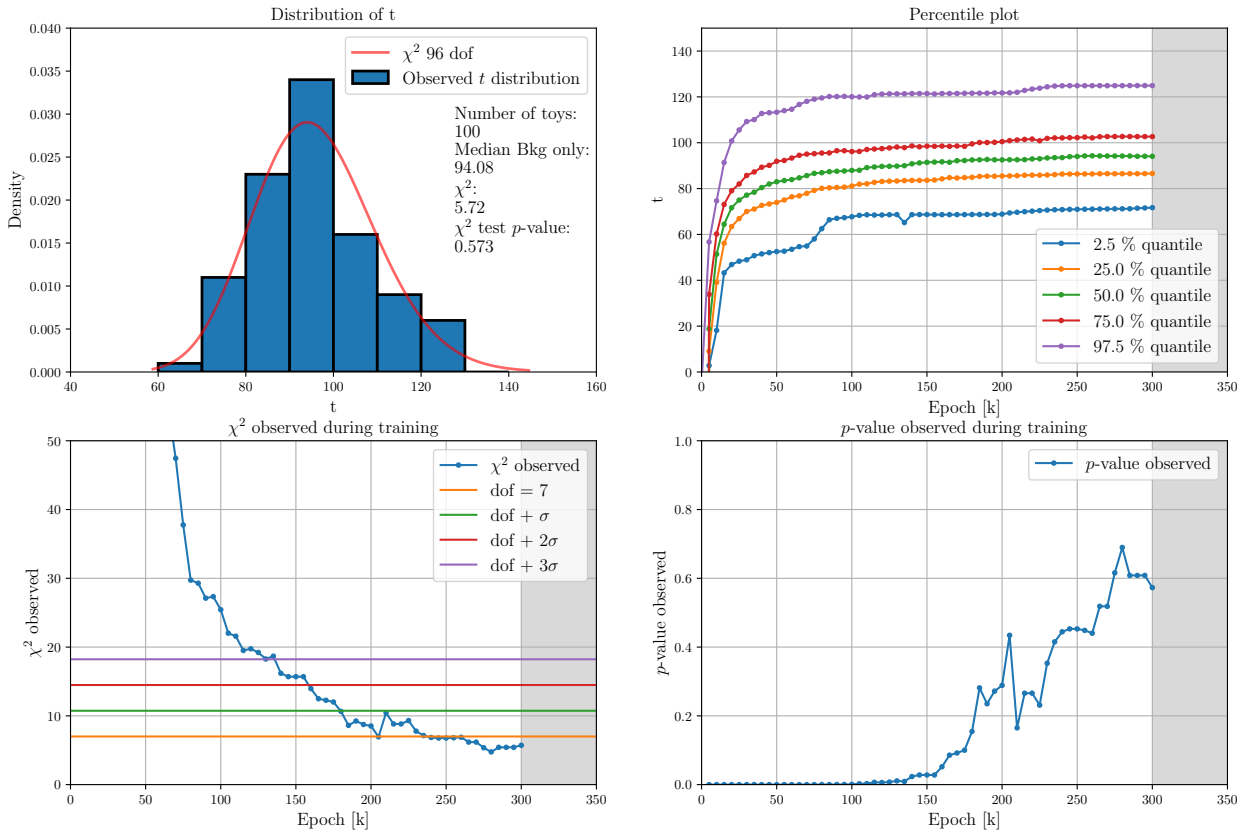


Figure 6.8: Optimal  $W$  search with **EFT\_YW06** dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 300\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{bkg}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $W = 2.45$ .

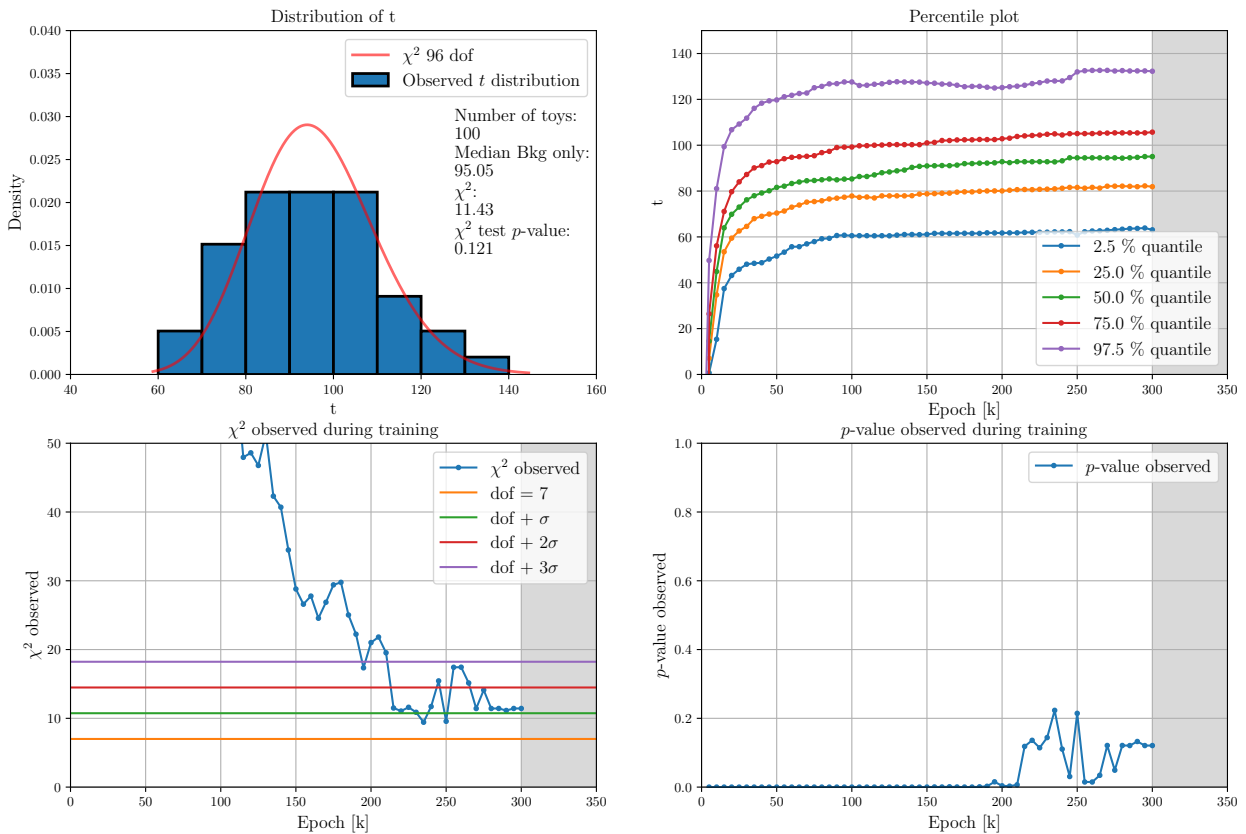


Figure 6.9: Optimal  $W$  search with **EFT\_YW06** dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 500\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{bkg}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $W = 2.55$ .

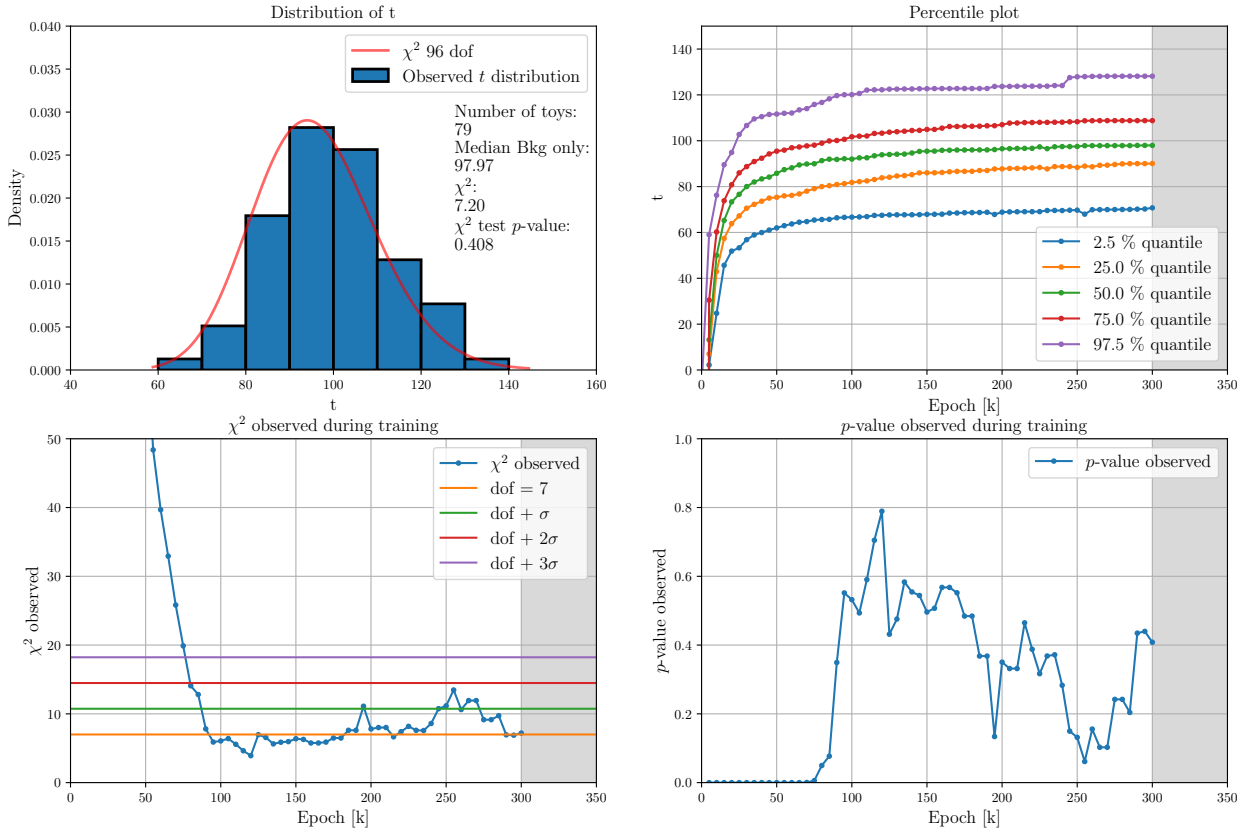


Figure 6.10: Optimal  $W$  search with **EFT\_YW06** dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 1000\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{bkg}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $W = 2.7$ .

### Optimal weight clipping curve

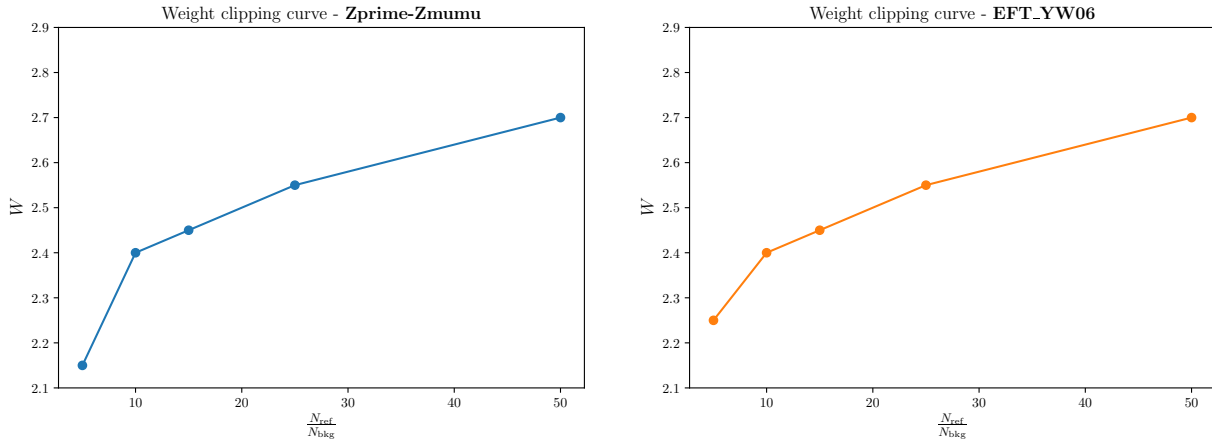


Figure 6.11: Optimal weight clipping curves.

As it is possible to see in Figure 6.11, the parameter  $W$  has a tendency to saturation when  $N_{\text{ref}}$  is much greater than  $N_{\text{bkg}}$ . This trend is visible for both types of datasets. Moreover, it is interesting to observe that, fixed the ratio between  $N_{\text{ref}}$  and  $N_{\text{bkg}}$ , the optimal weight clipping is approximately the same for the two cases analyzed. Exceptions occur only when the reference is not so populated. This result suggests that for a small reference the anomalies that can be found in the data distributions are different in the two cases. However, these exceptions become irrelevant with a sufficiently large reference, therefore when the statistical fluctuations in the distributions are suppressed by the high statistic.

Finally, these curves showing the optimal weight clipping trend can be used to find an approximation of the optimal  $W$  when we want to train the network with new values of  $N_{\text{ref}}$  and  $N_{\text{bkg}}$ . What we have

to do is just evaluating the ratio  $N_{\text{ref}}/N_{\text{bkg}} = \xi$ , solving the system:

$$\begin{cases} y = W \left( x = \frac{N_{\text{ref}}}{N_{\text{bkg}}} \right) \\ x = \xi \end{cases} \implies (x^*, y^*)$$

and taking as optimal  $W$  estimate the value of  $y^*$ .

# Chapter 7

## Training with signal events and results

After the optimization of the weight clipping parameter, it is possible to train the network with signal events in the observed dataset. Obviously, the operation has to be done with  $W$  set to the value found for the corresponding reference dataset size. In this case the output of the algorithm will be the distribution of  $t$  observed when there are new physics signals in the data. This result can be translated into a median significance, which must be compared with the ideal significance. The computation of this ideal test value is done in the next Section. Then, the results of this new phase of network training are presented.

### 7.1 Ideal significance computation

In the following discussion, the variable  $x$  will be identified with the invariant mass. In fact, we are able to evaluate the ideal log-likelihood ratio with a monodimensional distribution after fitting it.

What we have is a histogram of  $M_Z$  and its bins can be used as points to fit. However, it is not convenient to fit the whole spectrum because it is expected that the distribution of  $M_Z$  in the reference and in the alternative hypotheses are the same except for an interval where they differ. So the log-likelihood ratio is different from 0 only in this interval, that must be defined for both **Zprime-Zmumu** and **EFT\_YW06** datasets as well as the functions used to fit. The procedure adopted is the following:

- For the **Zmumu-Zprime** dataset, the reference distribution differs from the one with new physics signals only in the interval  $[250, 350]$  GeV/ $c^2$ . In this region the background distribution is approximated by a power law:

$$n_{\text{bkg}}(x) = a e^{bx+c} + d \quad (7.1)$$

while the signal distribution is described by the sum of two gaussians:

$$n_{\text{sig}}(x) = a \exp\left[-\frac{(x-b)^2}{c^2}\right] + d \exp\left[-\frac{(x-e)^2}{f^2}\right] \quad (7.2)$$

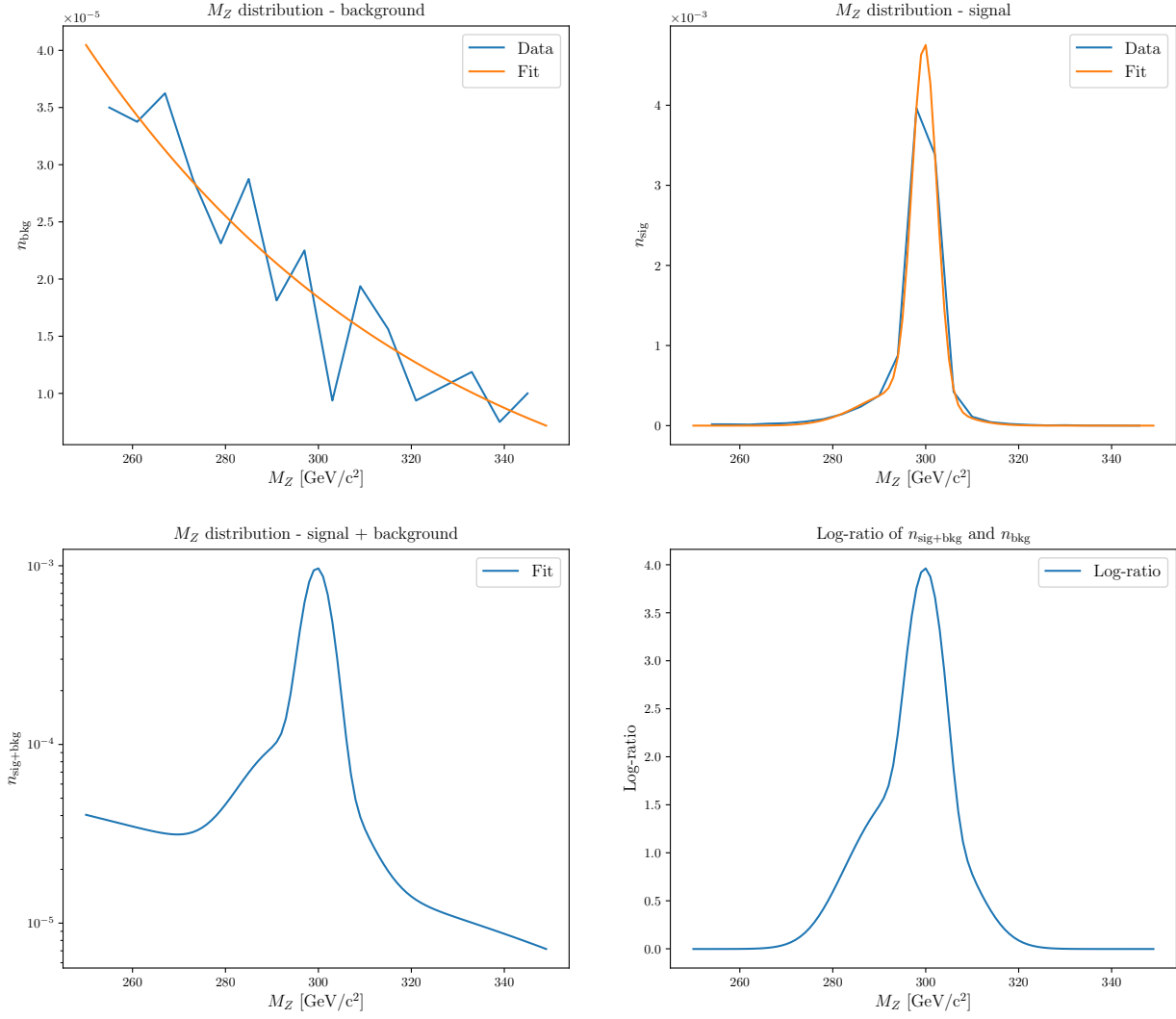
When fitting the signal+background distribution,  $n_{\text{bkg}}$  and  $n_{\text{sig}}$  should be summed and then normalized.

- For the **EFT\_YW06** dataset, the distribution with new physics events is similar to the reference one, but with a different slope in the exponential descent. An interval sufficiently populated where they differ is  $[200, 800]$  GeV/ $c^2$ . In this region both distributions are approximated by a power law with a linear growth:

$$n_{\text{bkg}}(x) = a_1 x e^{b_1 x + c_1} + d_1 \quad (7.3)$$

$$n_{\text{sig+bkg}}(x) = a_2 x e^{b_2 x + c_2} + d_2 \quad (7.4)$$

Now that good approximants of the distributions are known, we can compute the log-likelihood ratio of  $n_{\text{bkg+sig}}$  and  $n_{\text{bkg}}$  by integration of the log-ratio function of the two distributions. The ideal significance is then calculated through the Equation 5.7. In Figure 7.1 a schematization of this procedure is given as an example.



**Figure 7.1:** Ideal significance computing. Top row: background and signal distributions with their fit in the interval  $[250, 350]$   $\text{GeV}/c^2$ . Bottom row: signal+background distribution and log-ratio of  $n_{\text{bkg}+\text{sig}}$  and  $n_{\text{bkg}}$ .

Finally, the results for ideal significance calculation are listed below<sup>9</sup>:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mathbf{Zmumu-Zprime} & \sigma_{\text{id}} \approx 11.8\sigma \\ \mathbf{EFT\_YW06} & \sigma_{\text{id}} \approx 25\sigma \end{array}$$

## 7.2 Training results: $t_{\text{obs}}$ distribution and observed significance

The results of training processes for both **Zmumu-Zprime** and **EFT\_YW06** datasets and for the several sizes of the reference are presented in this Section. The relevant informations showed are the  $t_{\text{obs}}$  distribution and the quantile plot, which tells us if the process of training gives a stable  $t_{\text{obs}}$  distribution after a certain number of epochs. The value of the observed significance, reported in the plots, is obtained through:

$$\sigma_{\text{obs}} = \sqrt{2} * \text{erf}^{-1}(1 - p_{\text{obs}}) \quad (7.5)$$

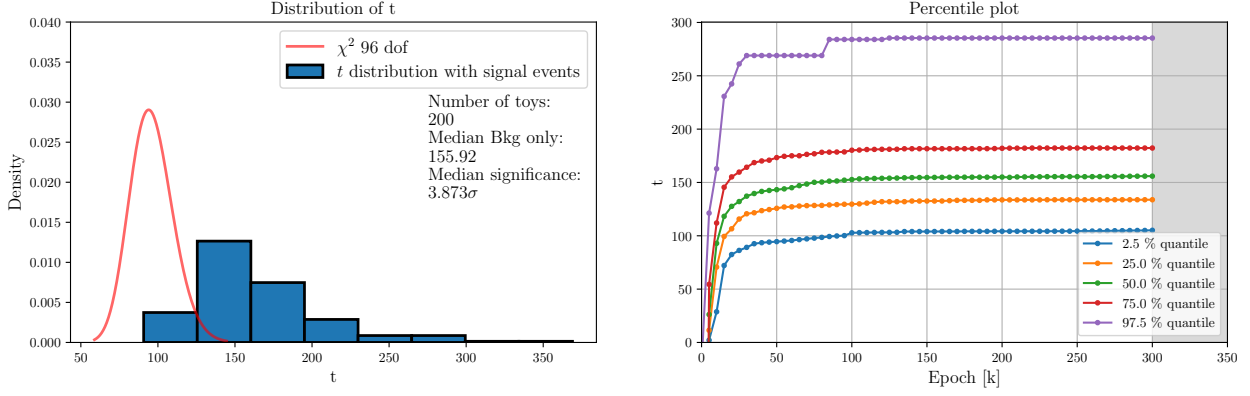
where  $p_{\text{obs}}$  is the median  $p$ -value computed through the median  $t$  of the observed distribution, denoted as  $t_{\text{obs}}$ :

$$p_{\text{obs}} = \int_{-\infty}^{t_{\text{med}}} \chi^2(t; \nu = 96) dt \quad (7.6)$$

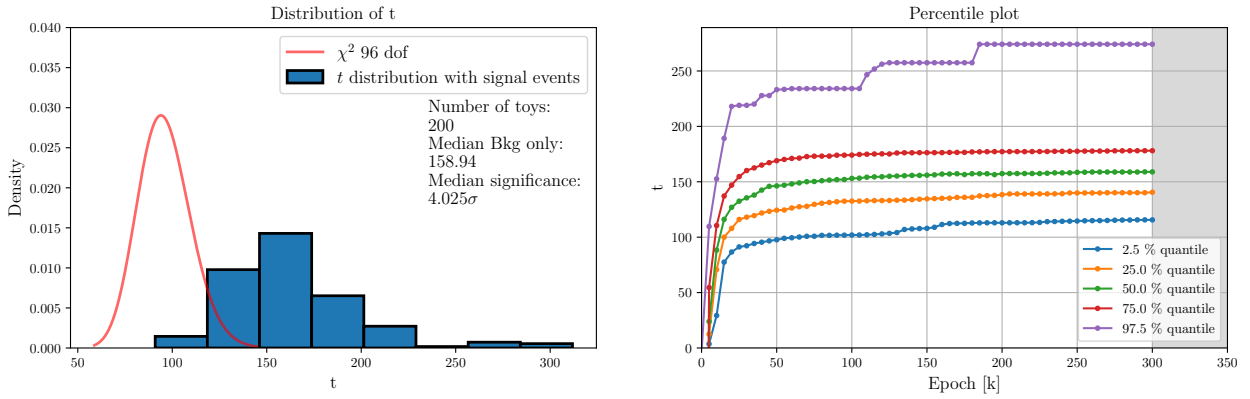
<sup>9</sup>The high value of the ideal significance for **EFT\_YW06** dataset is due to the large width of the interval where the two distributions differ. Moreover, the systematic error on the height of bins is not taken into account in the procedure. An improvement of this calculation is left to future work.



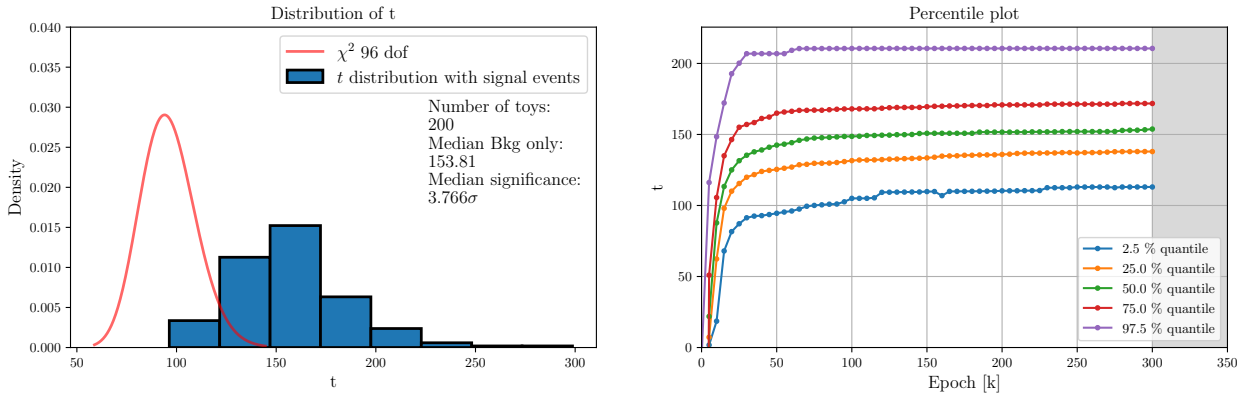
## Zmumu-Zprime dataset



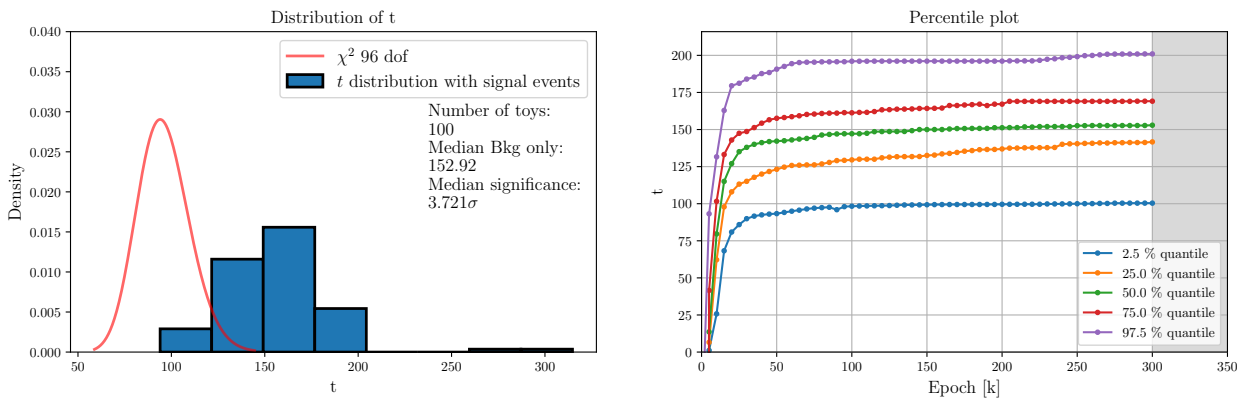
**Figure 7.2:** Results with Zmumu-Zprime dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 100\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{bkg}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{sig}} = 40$ ,  $W = 2.15$ .



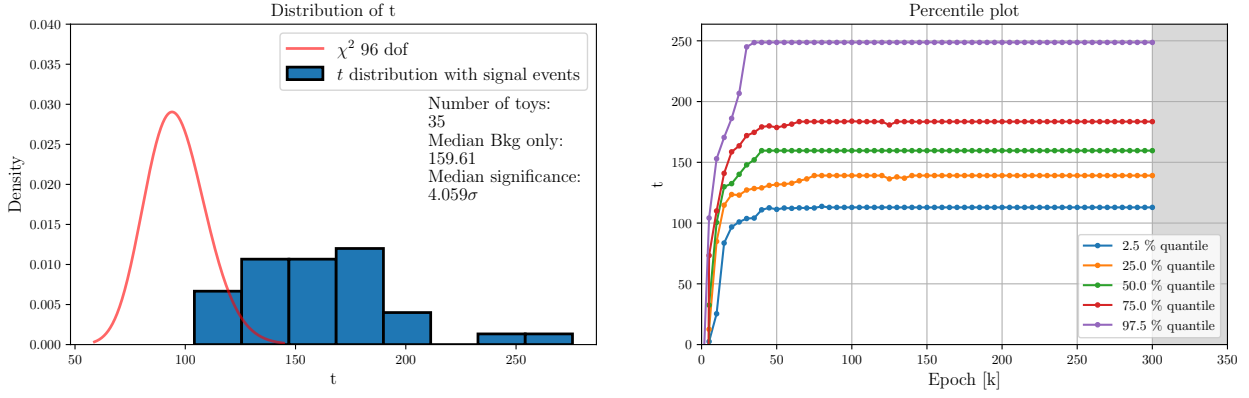
**Figure 7.3:** Results with Zmumu-Zprime dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 200\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{bkg}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{sig}} = 40$ ,  $W = 2.4$ .



**Figure 7.4:** Results with Zmumu-Zprime dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 300\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{bkg}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{sig}} = 40$ ,  $W = 2.45$ .

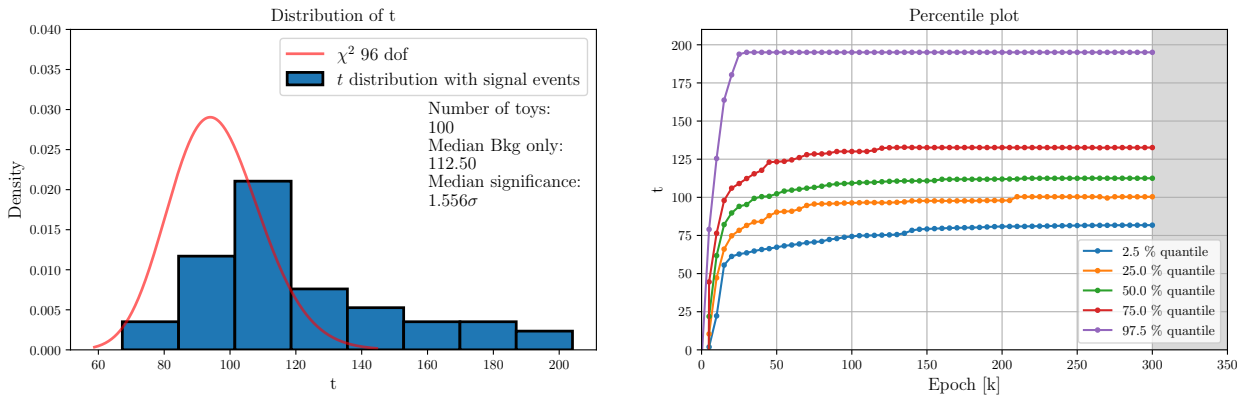


**Figure 7.5:** Results with Zmumu-Zprime dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 500\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{bkg}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{sig}} = 40$ ,  $W = 2.55$ .

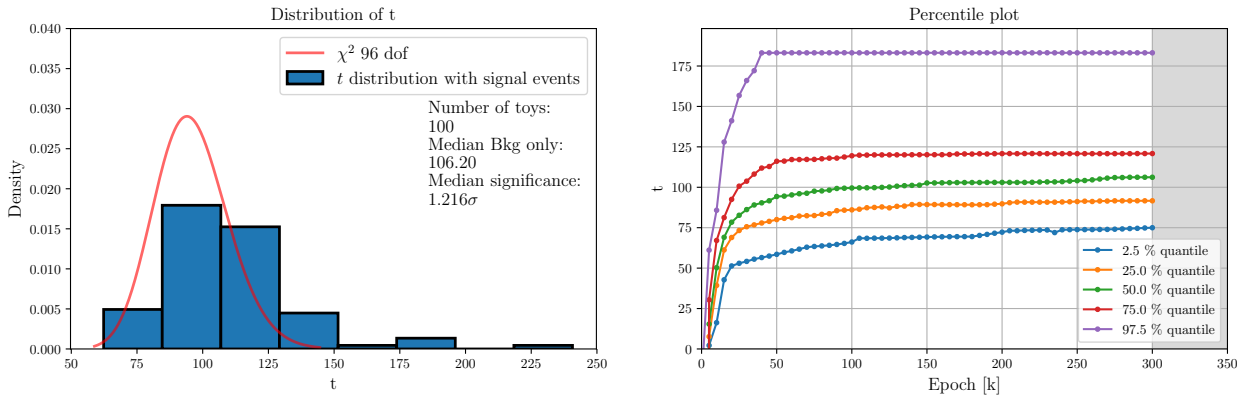


**Figure 7.6:** Results with **Zmumu-Zprime** dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 1000\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{bkg}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{sig}} = 40$ ,  $W = 2.7$ .

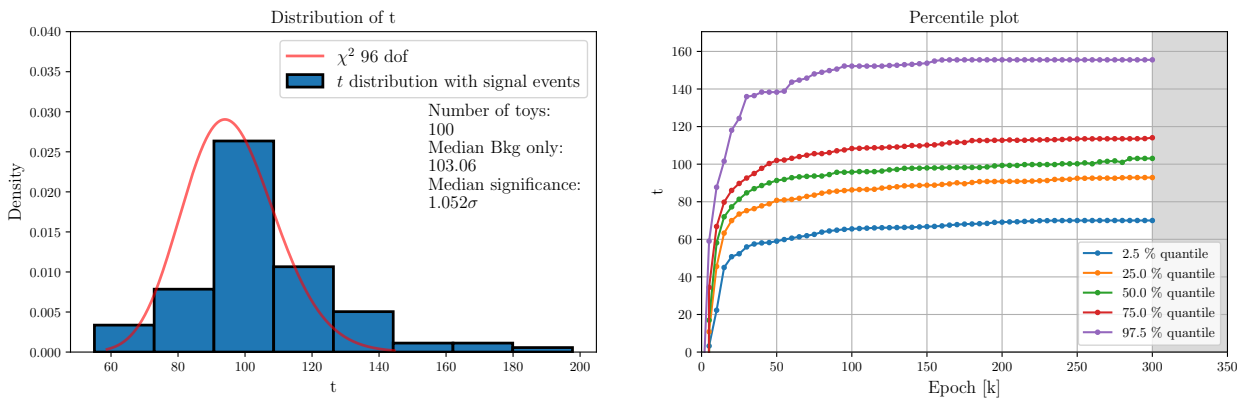
### EFT\_YW06 dataset



**Figure 7.7:** Results with **EFT\_YW06** dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 100\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{eff}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $W = 2.25$ .



**Figure 7.8:** Results **EFT\_YW06** dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 200\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{eff}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $W = 2.4$ .



**Figure 7.9:** Results **EFT\_YW06** dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 300\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{eff}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $W = 2.45$ .

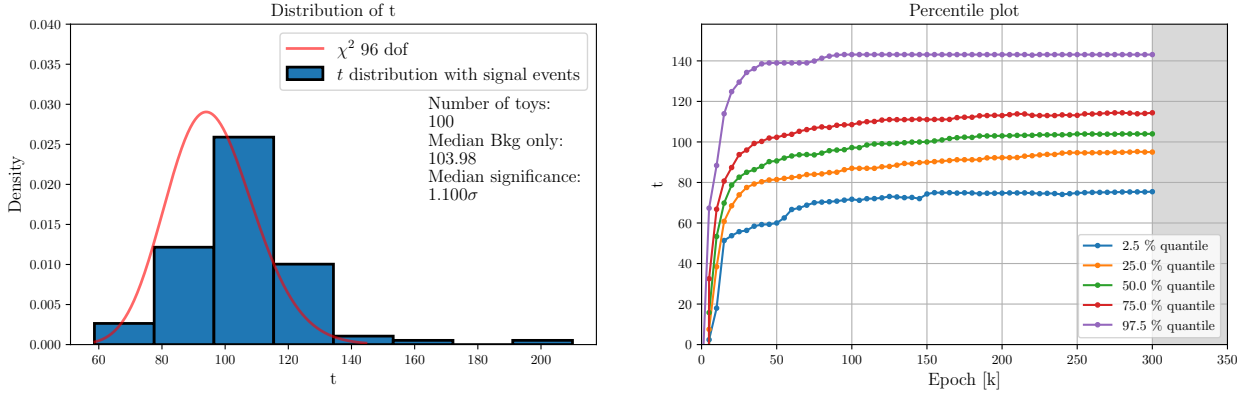


Figure 7.10: Results **EFT\_YW06** dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 500\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{eff}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $W = 2.55$ .

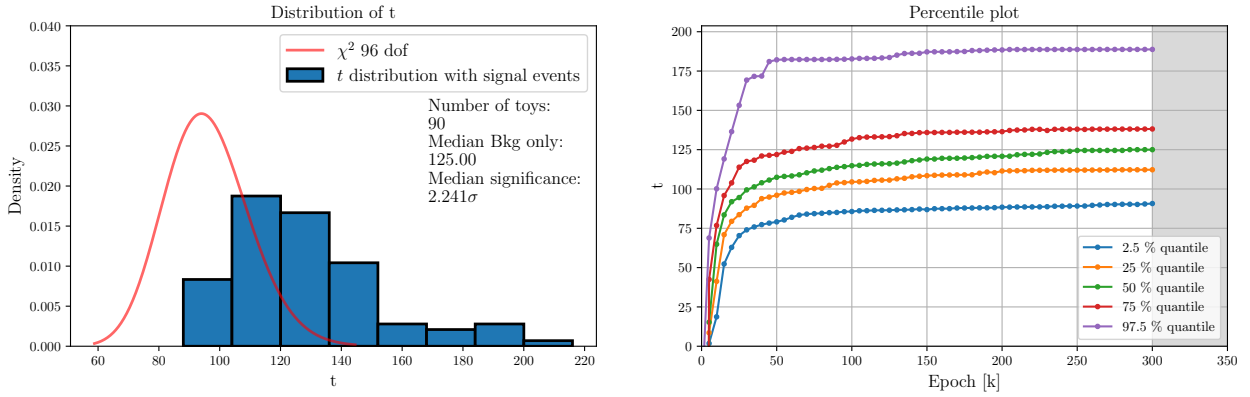


Figure 7.11: Results **EFT\_YW06** dataset for  $N_{\text{ref}} = 1000\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{eff}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $W = 2.7$ .

## Observed significances

Zmumu-Zprime				EFT_YW06		
$N_{\text{ref}}$	$N_{\text{bkg}}$	$N_{\text{sig}}$	$\sigma_{\text{med}}$	$N_{\text{ref}}$	$N_{\text{eff}}$	$\sigma_{\text{med}}$
100k	20k	40	3.873	100k	20k	1.556
200k	20k	40	4.025	200k	20k	1.216
300k	20k	40	3.766	300k	20k	1.052
500k	20k	40	3.721	500k	20k	1.100
1000k	20k	40	4.059	1000k	20k	2.241

Table 7.1: Median significances observed at the end of training.

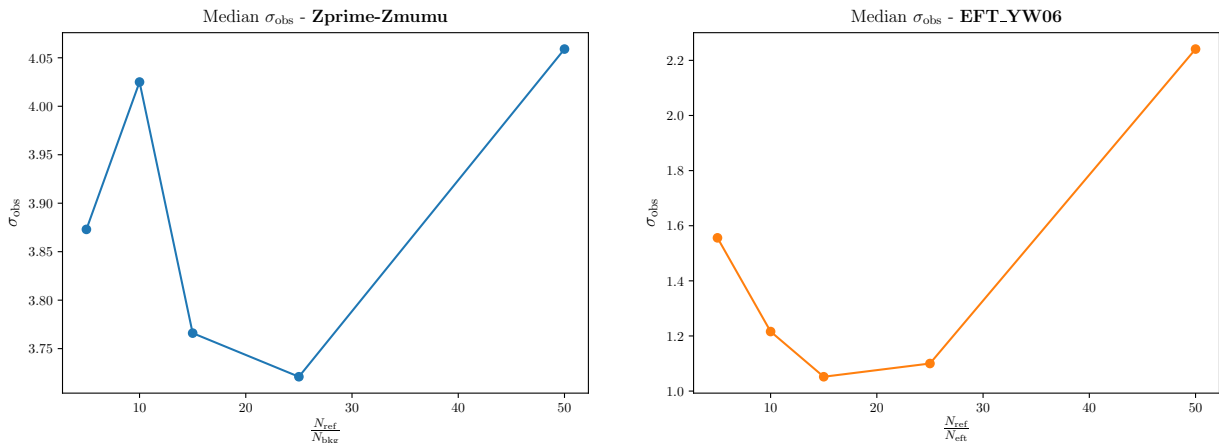


Figure 7.12: Median  $\sigma_{\text{obs}}$  to varying of the ratio between  $N_{\text{ref}}$  and  $N_{\text{data}}$ .

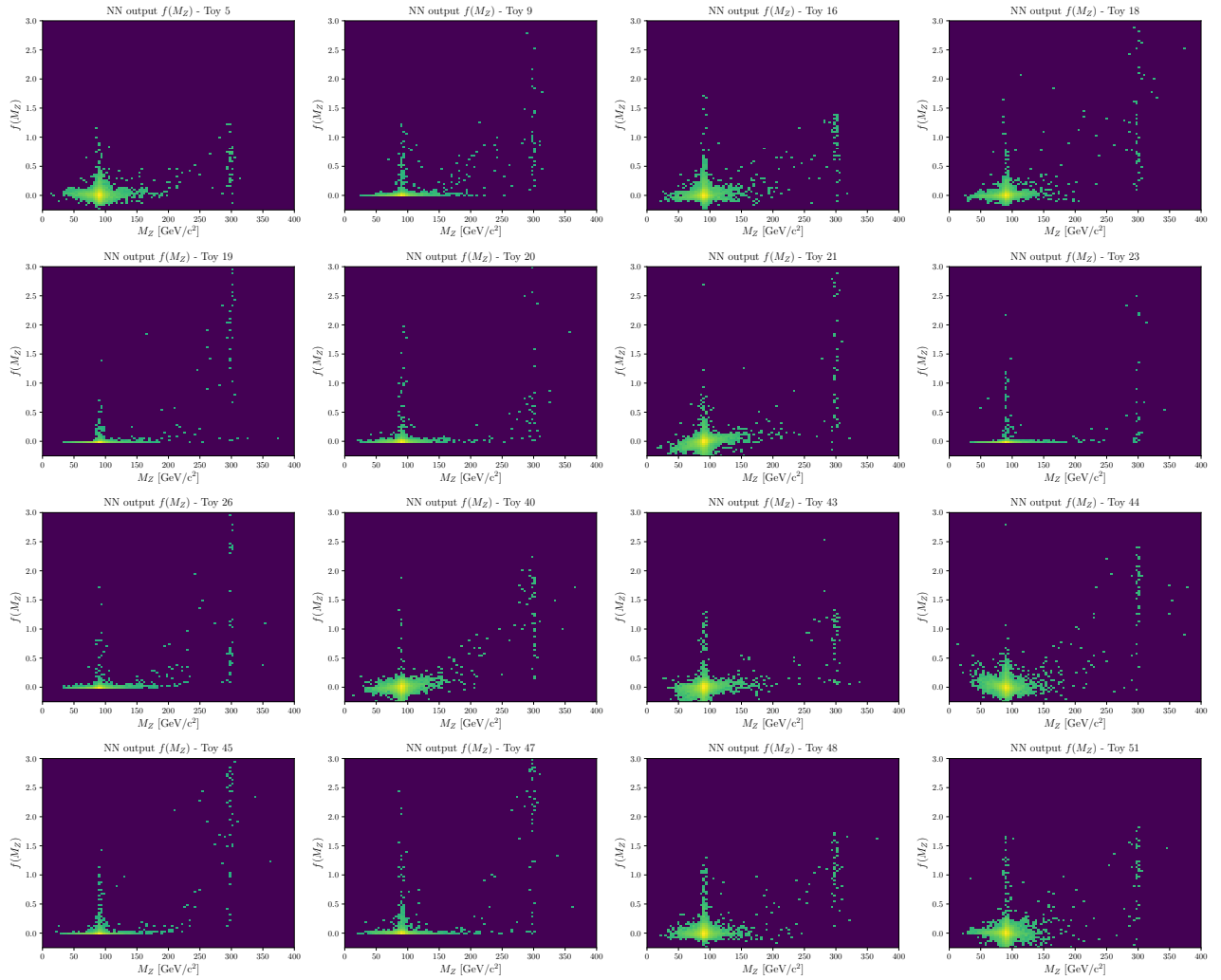
The trend of the median  $\sigma_{\text{obs}}$  gives us informations on what the network learns from the data fed to it. Higher values of  $\sigma_{\text{obs}}$  are obtained when the reference size is wide enough or small. A possible explanation can be given by highlighting two remarks:

- When the reference size is small, the fluctuations in the data could be seen by the network as new physics signals. Therefore the significance increases on average.
- When the reference size is higher, the influence of the statistical fluctuations on the results is less relevant, but the differences between signal and background events are more pronounced. So the network has more classification power after training and the significance becomes greater.

For a middle size of the reference none of these effects is relevant, so we find a minimum in  $\sigma_{\text{obs}}$  plot.

In general, the performances of the algorithm are much better in the case of the **Zmumu-Zprime** dataset respect to the corresponding value of the ideal significance. However, more operations can be done in order to enhance the power of the test statistic performed by the trained network and in the final Chapter some of the possible improvements are presented along with the future development of this work.

### 7.3 Training results: NN output analysis



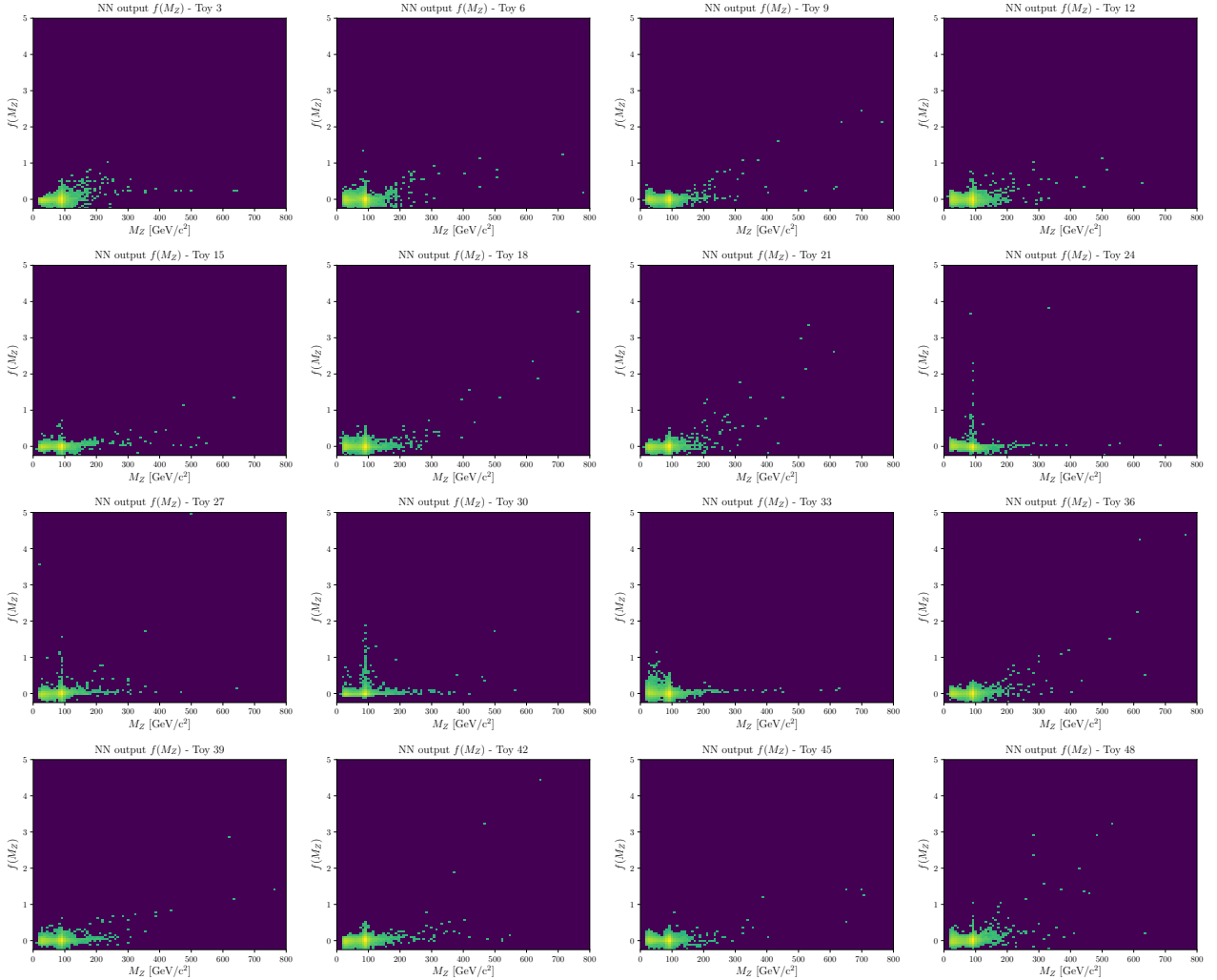
**Figure 7.13:** NN output  $f(x)$  for different toys for **Zmumu-Zprime** with  $N_{\text{ref}} = 1000\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{bkg}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{sig}} = 40$ ,  $W = 2.7$ .

The final part of the analysis consists in studying the output  $f(x)$  of the network. In the statistical foundations of the algorithm it was explained that  $f(x)$ , when training is completed, approximates the

log-likelihood ratio between the data distribution and the reference one. An interesting result arise when we plot  $f(x)$  versus the invariant mass corresponding to every event  $x$ .

Concerning the results obtained with **Zmumu-Zprime** dataset, what we can see from the plots in Figure 7.13 is the presence of two peaks. The first one is approximately near the mass of the  $Z$  boson,  $M_Z \approx 91$  GeV, and it is due to the statistical fluctuations in the mass distribution. The second peak can be found at  $M_Z \approx 300$  GeV, which is the central value of the mass of the resonant peak in the spectrum. This feature shows that the network has learnt the discrepancies of the observed data with the reference hypothesis in these portions of the spectrum. However, what makes this evidence interesting is the fact that the invariant mass was not given to the network when running the algorithm. In fact, the features given to the network are  $p_{T,1}$ ,  $p_{T,2}$ ,  $\eta_1$ ,  $\eta_2$  and  $\Delta\phi$ , while  $M_Z$  is a highly non-linear combination of the previous variables and this highlights the power of Neural Networks in classification tasks.

In the analysis of **EFT\_YW06** dataset, there is not a strong evidence of this result, as we can see in Figure 7.14. A soft rise in the output  $f(x)$  is visible with the growth of  $M_Z$ , but it is not so pronounced in every toy sample. A possible explanation of this phenomenon can be the small size of the data sample for this type of dataset, in fact the signal events are such that their invariant mass is distributed along the tail of the distribution. Therefore the sparsity of the data in the tail region causes a loss in performance of the algorithm, as it is possible to deduce by comparing the trend of the median  $\sigma_{\text{obs}}$  of the two different datasets, and so a minor discriminating power of the network.



**Figure 7.14:** NN output  $f(x)$  for different toys for **EFT\_YW06** with  $N_{\text{ref}} = 300\text{k}$ ,  $N_{\text{eff}} = 20\text{k}$ ,  $W = 2.45$ .



# Chapter 8

## Conclusion and future developments

In conclusion, the development of the algorithm has given successful results overall and they will be summarized in the following Section. Moreover, several ideas to improve the algorithm are proposed in Section 8.2.

### 8.1 Overview of the results

**Weight clipping optimization** The search for the optimal  $W$  has showed that for a certain value of the parameter the  $t_{\text{obs}}$  distribution converges after training at a  $\chi^2$  distribution with a number of dofs equal to the number of free parameters of the neural network. By the repetition of this procedure with different reference sizes, a trend for the optimal  $W$  was found and from this curve it is possible to predict an approximate value for the optimal  $W$  in a different condition. Last but not least, it was found that the value of  $W$  tends to saturate when the reference size is much populated respect to the size of the dataset of the observed data. Therefore, this phase of training can be avoided when the reference size is wide enough, in fact a good choice of the weight clipping could be the asymptotic value of  $W$ .

**Training with signal events** The analysis of the results has showed that the network is capable of distinguishing new physics signal events from the background ones, with a performance depending on the dataset employed. The proof of this result is given by the median significance obtained from the training with signal events. In the case of **Zmumu-Zprime** dataset, the performance of the algorithm is higher and it is greater than  $3\sigma$ , which means that the network can discern clearly between signal and background events. The ideal significance is still far, as its value is  $\sim 11\sigma$ , however it is calculated with a complete knowledge on the true data distribution, while in the training process the network has no knowledge on these informations.

A more delicate discussion has to be done with the results coming from the **EFT\_YW06** dataset. In this case, the median significance obtained after training is lower and it doesn't exceed the threshold of  $3\sigma$  and more improvements should be done on the algorithm. However, the shape of the  $t_{\text{obs}}$  distribution with signal events is different from the shape of the distribution with only background, obtained in the optimization phase of the parameter  $W$ . Therefore, the network is still capable of distinguishing signal from background, but with a worse performance.

Lastly, the plot of the output of the network  $f(x)$ , when plotted versus the invariant mass  $M_Z$  corresponding to the event  $x$ , confirms that the trained network has learnt to discern the resonant peaks in the mass distribution, although  $M_Z$  is a highly non-linear combination of the features  $p_{T,1}$ ,  $p_{T,2}$ ,  $\eta_1$ ,  $\eta_2$  and  $\Delta\phi$ . This is a successful result as the invariant mass was not given to the input neurons of the network.

### 8.2 Future developments of the algorithm

**New input features** In order to achieve a higher significance through the trained network, a possible solution can be adding other dimensions to the input space, which means to add new features in addition

to the HLFs previously listed. There are several choices in this sense, but one of the most suited seems to be the invariant mass  $M_Z$ . This feature contains a very high level information and it can boost significantly the classification power of the network. However, more specific tests are needed in order to give quantitative answers and by adding another feature the time needed for the algorithm routine becomes larger. In fact, the number of parameters to optimize becomes larger if the number of layers of the network stays the same.

**Distributed computing and parallelization** Another important development can be made in this sense. First of all, a way to reduce the time needed for sampling the  $t_{\text{obs}}$  distribution is exploiting a bigger cluster of machines and with more resources for every single worker. An alternative to this possible solution could be a cluster of GPUs. In fact, these units have an architecture which make them suitable to this kind of tasks. Moreover, Keras API employed for this work is optimized for GPU distributed computing, so it spreads the various computations done during the training phase to the graphic unit, if there is one.

Last but not least, the most remarkable improvement that can be done to the procedure is the parallelization of a single process. In order to explain the key idea that makes this technique theoretically possible, we have to split the ensemble of reference and data into  $n$  subsets  $(x^{(k)}, y^{(k)})$ , with  $k = 1, \dots, n$ , and then we have to rewrite the loss function into  $n$  pieces, computed over the  $n$  subsets:

$$\begin{aligned} L[f] &= \sum_{(x,y)} \left[ (1-y) \frac{N(\mathbf{R})}{N_{\mathcal{R}}} (e^{f(x)} - 1) - yf(x) \right] \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{(x^{(k)}, y^{(k)})} \left[ (1-y^{(k)}) \frac{N(\mathbf{R})}{N_{\mathcal{R}}} (e^{f(x^{(k)})} - 1) - y^{(k)} f(x^{(k)}) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (8.1)$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^n L^{(k)}[f] \quad (8.2)$$

Equations 8.1 and 8.2 show that the algorithm is scalable on  $n$  different workers. In fact, the  $k^{\text{th}}$ -worker can compute  $L^{(k)}[f]$  in parallel with the other workers, with  $k = 1, \dots, n$ , and then every worker communicates in order to compute  $L[f]$  by summing every  $L^{(k)}[f]$ . By this way, the computation is  $n$  times faster respect to the standard procedure, since the time of computation grows linearly with the size of the reference and the data. The same idea is applicable to the computation of the gradient, needed for parameters update. Concerning the fulfillment of this idea, there are several tools which can manage parallel computing. One of the most known is the framework APACHE SPARK, made for parallel computing and automatic learning tasks.

Putting all the previous ideas together is the actual prospective of this work. A boost in the performance and in the computation time is needed before applying this analysis to real datasets taken by the LHC detectors, in particular CMS, Their size is bigger than the sizes analyzed in this work. However, the results obtained are encouraging and there is extensive room for improvement.



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